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No deal to end shutdown; Trump says 'could be a long time'

By LISA MASCARO and CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — No one budged at President Donald Trump's White House meeting with congressional leaders Wednesday, so the partial government shutdown persisted through a 12th day over his demand for billions of dollars to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico. They'll try

again Friday. In one big change, the new Congress convenes Thursday with Democrats taking majority control of the House, and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said outside the White House that there would be rapid passage of legislation to re-open the government — without funds for the border wall.

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A closed sign is displayed on a door at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, as a partial government shutdown stretches into its third week.

Associated Press

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Trump gives new Pentagon chief a taste of his world view



Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, right, listens as President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **ROBERT BURNS**

AP National Security Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — On his first working day in charge of the Pentagon, Pat Shanahan got a taste of President Donald Trump's scattershot way of looking at the world.

As Shanahan sat to Trump's left at a Cabinet meeting at the White House, the president denounced U.S. allies as freeloaders, expressed disgust with U.S. warfighting strategy in Afghanistan, mused about his own potential to be a great general, dismissed Syria as "sand and death," spoke encouragingly of a second North Korea summit, and falsely claimed he had fired former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

It was a very public reminder of the challenges that Shanahan, as acting defense secretary, faces as he navigates the complex terrain that led to the early end of his predecessor's tenure.

At one point, Trump turned to Shanahan with an unusual demand.

The commander in chief said audits of Pentagon war spending must be "pri-

ivate" — an apparent reference to reports produced by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Trump asserted that the reports give away too much information and should not be publicly released, although the law that created that watchdog's office says its reports must be made public.

Trump wished Mattis well in the retired Marine general's return to private life after two tumultuous years leading the Pentagon. But Trump also took a swipe at the man he had approvingly called "Mad Dog Mattis" when he hired him shortly after winning election in 2016.

"What's he done for me?" Trump asked. "How has he done in Afghanistan? Not too good."

He added, "President Obama fired him, and essentially so did I."

Trump did not explain his complaint about Mattis' approach to the war. But Trump hinted that he had irreconcilable differences with Mattis on what Trump views as an unfair defense relationship with allies such

as NATO. Trump suggested that Shanahan, who took over as acting defense secretary when Mattis ended his tenure Monday, agrees with him on this.

"We have some great allies, but a lot of our allies were taking advantage of our taxpayers and our country," Trump said. "We can't let that happen, and Pat Shanahan agrees with that and he's agreed with that for a long time. And that was very important to me.

"I couldn't get other people to understand it," Trump said, apparently referring to Mattis, who argued for higher defense spending by NATO allies but did so in a nonconfrontational way. In a resignation letter that amounted to a rebuke of Trump's view on how to treat alliances and adversaries, Mattis wrote, "My views on treating allies with respect and also being clear-eyed about both malign actors and strategic competitors are strongly held and informed by over four decades of immersion in these issues."

Mattis submitted his resignation on Dec. 20 after a series of policy disagree-

ments with Trump, including the president's decision to withdraw troops from Syria. Mattis said he would stay until the end of February, but on Dec. 23 Trump announced that Shanahan would take over Jan. 1, speeding up Mattis' departure.

In his Cabinet meeting remarks with reporters present, Trump said he was in no rush to get U.S. troops out of Syria but did not clarify a timetable. Mattis and other Trump advisers tried unsuccessfully to persuade Trump to stay in Syria long enough to ensure that the Islamic State group, which has largely been defeated on the battlefield, cannot regroup. Nor did the president clarify plans in Afghanistan, where he has ordered a troop reduction on an unspecified timetable. Shanahan, who had served as deputy to Mattis since July 2017, is a career business executive with no prior government or military experience. His views on alliance relations and other key defense issues are not well known. As the deputy secretary he had focused the budget as well as a

Trump favorite topic: development of a Space Force. At a morning meeting at the Pentagon with the military service secretaries and other top civilian officials, Shanahan said he was focused on the defense strategy developed during Mattis' tenure. It emphasizes the importance of great power competition with Russia and China, after America's many years of fighting insurgent wars in the Middle East.

In that context, Shanahan said the Pentagon leaders should remember, "China, China, China," according to one official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss internal defense meetings and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Trump administration has had a rocky relationship with China. Like the Obama administration, Trump's government is concerned by what it calls China's militarization of disputed areas in the South China Sea and by its advances in certain high-tech weaponry.

Separately, Shanahan's spokesman, Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, said that as part of Shanahan's ethics agreement he had stepped aside himself "for the duration of his service" at the Pentagon from "matters in which the Boeing Company is a party." Shanahan had worked for Boeing for 31 years, including in positions overseeing big defense programs. It's unclear whether Trump will nominate Shanahan for Senate confirmation as defense secretary or turn to another candidate. With Shanahan moving up from deputy secretary to acting secretary, the Pentagon's budget chief, David Norquist, has been chosen to fill in temporarily as the deputy secretary, according to Pentagon spokesman Tom Crosson. Shanahan, a native of Washington state, holds a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington and two advanced degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. □



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SHUTDOWN

Continued from Front

But the White House has rejected that package, and Trump said ahead of the session with the congressional leaders that the partial shutdown will last "as long as it takes" to get the funding he wants.

"Could be a long time or could be quickly," Trump said during lengthy comments at a Cabinet meeting at the White House, his first public appearance of the new year. Meanwhile, the shutdown dragged through a second week, closing some parks and leaving hundreds of thousands of federal employees without pay.

Democrats said they asked Trump directly during Wednesday's private meeting held in the Situation Room why he wouldn't consider their package of bills. One measure would open most of the shuttered government departments at funding levels already agreed to by all sides. The other would provide temporary funding for Homeland Security, through Feb. 8, allowing talks to continue over border security.

"I said, Mr. President, Give me one good reason why you should continue your shutdown," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said afterward. "He could not give a good answer." Added Schumer, "We would hope they would reconsider."

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said there's no need to prolong the shutdown and he was disappointed the talks did not produce a resolution. He complained that Democrats interrupted Home-

land Security officials who were trying to describe a dire situation at the border.

"We were hopeful that we could get more of a negotiation," said McCarthy.

He said the leaders plan to return to the White House Friday to continue negotiations.

The two sides have traded offers, but their talks broke down ahead of the holidays. On Wednesday, Trump also rejected his own administration's offer to accept \$2.5 billion for the wall. That offer was made when Vice President Mike Pence and other top officials met with Schumer at the start of the shutdown. Instead, on Wednesday Trump repeatedly pushed for the \$5.6 billion he has demanded.

Making his case ahead of the afternoon session with Democratic and Republican leaders, he said the current border is "like a sieve" and noted the tear gas "flying" overnight to deter arrivals.

"If they knew they couldn't come through, they wouldn't even start," Trump said at the meeting, joined by Cabinet secretaries and top advisers, including Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump.

Trump complained that he had been "lonely" at the White House during the holiday break, having skipped his getaway to Mar-a-Lago in Florida. He claimed his only companions were the "machine gunners," referring to security personnel, and "they don't wave, they don't smile." He also criticized Pelosi for visiting Hawaii.

At the Capitol on Wednesday, Pelosi said she hoped Republicans and the White

House "are hearing what we have offered" to end the shutdown.

Trump contended the Democrats see the shutdown fight as "an election point" as he celebrated his own first two years in office. He promised "six more years of great success."

The partial government shutdown began on Dec. 22. Funding for the wall has been the sticking point in passing funding bills for several government departments. Pelosi, who is expected to become speaker on Thursday, said Tuesday that Democrats would take action to "end the Trump Shutdown" by passing legislation Thursday



House Democratic leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., walk to speak with reporters after a meeting with President Donald Trump on border security at the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

to reopen government. "We are giving the Republicans the opportunity to

take yes for an answer," she wrote in a letter to colleagues. □

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Warren plans Iowa trip in another step toward 2020 campaign



Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks to reporters as she walks down a hall at the Massachusetts Statehouse, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press

By STEVE LeBLANC

BOSTON (AP) — Sen. Elizabeth Warren is preparing to bring a populist message to Iowa voters just days after taking her first major step toward launching a campaign for president. The Massachusetts Democrat told reporters on Wednesday that she's planning to visit the state with the nation's first presidential caucuses after being sworn in on Thursday to a second Senate term. Warren said that Washington "works great for the wealthy and the well-connected" but that it needs to work for everybody else. "This is a moment in America where people really want to get the focus back on the points that touch their lives, about things like student loans and what it costs to get a prescription filled," Warren said after a swearing-in ceremony for state lawmakers at the Massachusetts Statehouse. Warren on Monday announced she's launching an exploratory committee for president.

She is the most prominent Democrat yet in what is expected to be a crowded field of fellow contenders hoping to retake the White House from Republican President Donald Trump in 2020.

The former Harvard law professor made a name for herself a decade ago with calls for greater consumer protections, which led to the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau under former Democratic President Barack Obama.

Warren said she plans to run on many of those same basic economic issues, which she said have been made even more precarious by Washington politics. "I believe that Washington

is corrupt," she said. "I see it firsthand."

Warren was been a favorite target of Trump, who frequently calls her "Pocahontas" — a reference to Warren's claims of Native American heritage. Warren in October released a DNA test meant to bolster those claims, but the test seemed only to generate more controversy for Warren. The test indicated that Warren likely had Native American in her bloodline, though the ancestor probably lived six to 10 generations ago. Some critics complained that the genetic analysis cheapened the identities of tribal members with deeper ties. Trump told Fox News Channel's "All-American New Year" in an interview Monday that he hopes Warren runs.

"We'll see how she does," he said. "I wish her well. I hope she does well. I'd love to run against her."

Warren plans to start her swing through Iowa on Friday with a stop at an organizing event in Council Bluffs followed by similar events on Saturday in Sioux City and Des Moines and a roundtable discussion in Storm Lake.

Warren also defended her decision to host a live Instagram event on New Year's Eve from the kitchen of her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The live feed showed her drinking a beer, petting her dog and taking questions from viewers — an event some derided as awkward.

"It's one more way to be able just to invite people into your home. I wish I could just open the door and have lots of folks in, but this is a way to do it," she said, adding that her beer of choice is Michelob Ultra, what she called "the club soda of beers." □



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Michigan man held for spying in Russia was frequent visitor

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — As a staff sergeant with the Marines in Iraq, Paul Whelan enjoyed fine cigars and showed an affinity for Russia — even spending two weeks of military leave in Moscow and St. Petersburg instead of at home in the U.S. with family and friends. The 48-year-old Detroit-area man had an account on a Russian social media site, where he posted festive notes on the country's national holidays. Now, he's under arrest there on espionage allegations.

Whelan has visited Russia since at least 2007 and was there again for a friend's wedding, showing other guests around, said his twin brother, David Whelan. He was due to return home on Jan. 6, the brother said.

U.S. officials are seeking answers about Paul Whelan's arrest on spying charges. The Russian Federal Security Service, or FSB, said Whelan was caught "during an espionage operation," but gave no details.

U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman Jr. visited Whelan on Wednesday in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison, the State Department said. "Ambassador Huntsman expressed his support for Mr. Whelan and offered the embassy's assistance," it said.

He also spoke by phone with Whelan's family, the statement added, but did not disclose any details "due to privacy considerations for Mr. Whelan and his family."

According to what appears to be Paul Whelan's profile on the popular Russian social media platform VKontakte, he posted "God save President Trump" — flanked by flag emojis — on Inauguration Day in 2016. A 2010 post referred to then-President Barack Obama as a "moron."

Another photo showed Whelan wearing a T-shirt of the Moscow soccer club Spartak. In March 2014, around the time of Rus-



This undated photo provided by the Whelan family shows Paul Whelan in Iceland.

Associated Press

sia's annexation of Crimea, Whelan suggested that "Putin can have Alaska, as long as he takes Sarah Palin, too!" And a photo posted in August shows Whelan attending a security conference organized by the U.S. State Department.

David Whelan disputes Russia's allegation that his brother is a spy.

Former CIA agent John Sipher agrees, saying Paul Whelan's spotty military career would keep U.S. intelligence from hiring him for sensitive operations.

"He absolutely does not fit the profile of someone we would use in a place like Moscow," said Sipher, who once ran the agency's Russia operations in Moscow. "Due to the oppressive level of counterintelligence scrutiny in Moscow, we do not put people without diplomatic immunity in harm's way. Nor do we handle low-level intelligence collection operations in a place like Moscow."

Paul Whelan attended high school in Ann Arbor, west of Detroit, and joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 1994. A decade later, he was made a staff sergeant and was deployed twice to Iraq, in 2004 and 2006.

His last duty assignment was with the Marine Air Control Group 38 Headquarters,

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing; Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California. He specialized in administrative posts.

While stationed in Iraq, Whelan was part of something called the Lamplighter's Club, a group of service members who got together to enjoy good cigars.

"It's one of the unique pleasures that anyone can take advantage of, as everyone should take advantage of a fine cigar once in a while," Whelan said in a 2007 interview posted on the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing page of the Marine Corps website.

Whelan also was part of "The Rest and Recuperation Leave Program," which authorized 15 days of leave to service members on year-long deployments to Iraq, according to another 2007 story on the website. The military paid for the travel and most service members chose to return home, but others could travel abroad. Whelan spent his two weeks in Russia, saying in the interview that the leave program "gives those of us who are single an opportunity to travel throughout the world wherever we want to go and experience the diversity of culture."

During his military career, Whelan received awards

that included the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, but he ran afoul of the military and was convicted in 2008 on larceny-related charges at a special court-martial. Whelan saw his rank stripped, was demoted to private and discharged for bad conduct.

He went on to start Kingsmead Arsenal, an online firearms business, from his Novi, Michigan, home, and worked for Troy, Michigan-based temporary staffing firm Kelly Services until 2017.

Whelan testified in a 2013 deposition in a federal court case involving Kelly Services that he worked as senior manager of global security and investigations for the company.

He was hired in 2017 by Auburn Hills, Michigan-based BorgWarner and currently is the auto parts supplier's global security director.

"He is responsible for overseeing security at our facilities in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and at other company locations around the world," company spokeswoman Kathy Graham said Tuesday in a statement. She said BorgWarner does not have any facilities in Russia. □

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Young immigrants seeking refuge from abuse face denials

By **AMY TAXIN** and **DEEPTI HAJELA**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Some immigrant youth looking to start over in the United States after fleeing abusive homes are seeing their applications for green cards rejected because the Trump administration says they're too old.

A U.S. government program in place since 1990 has let young immigrants subject to abuse, abandonment or neglect by a parent seek a court-appointed guardian and a green card to stay in the country.

While applicants must file paperwork before age 21, the Trump administration has said some are too old to qualify once they turn 18, prompting a flurry of denial notices over the past year in New York, Texas and California and additional questions of applicants in New Jersey.

Immigrant advocates have filed lawsuits in New York and California and said hundreds of young people could be affected by the change.

"This administration is literally going after some of the most vulnerable people trying to seek relief," said Mary Tanagho Ross, an appellate staff attorney at Los Angeles-based Public Counsel's immigrant rights project.

The Trump administration has been pushing to harden the U.S. border and slash immigration with a series of steps targeting Central American children who arrive on the border alone or with relatives. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions sought to make it tougher for young immigrants fleeing gangs or domestic violence to win asylum — though some guidance he issued on such cases was recently blocked by a federal judge. And the U.S. government has been slower to release immigrant children caught on the border to family in the country. The program is the best chance for many of the thousands of young immigrants arriving on the border to be allowed to stay in

the U.S. Under U.S. law, they can apply for green cards once a designated court in the U.S. state where they live assigns them a guard-

said. "I don't refer to her by her name or that she's my guardian — I just call her mom."

More than 50,000 young

ending in June 2018, when one in five applications that were decided were denied, the data shows. About 7 percent of appli-

they could not comment on pending litigation, but said the agency "continues to ensure that children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected receive the humanitarian benefits they are eligible for."

Beth Krause, supervising attorney of the immigrant youth project at Legal Aid in New York, said the federal immigration agency doesn't have the authority to question state law, which in New York expressly allows courts to issue guardianship orders to cover this age group.

"USCIS changed their policy and they changed their policy in a way that is arbitrary and capricious because it doesn't comport with the federal statute" that says young people have until age 21, said Krause, who is representing young immigrants in the New York filing. "They're getting it wrong."

In California, a federal judge has blocked the U.S. government from denying the young immigrants' cases for now. The state enacted a law several years ago expressly allowing probate courts to issue orders for immigrants who are between 18 and 21 so they can apply to participate in the federal program.

In response to the Trump administration's changes, immigrant advocates said they are also changing how they try to help these young applicants. Often, attorneys are looking into alternative ways to get these youth on stable legal footing in the United States, for example, applying for asylum in addition to special immigrant juvenile status, said Priya Konings, deputy director of legal services at Kids in Need of Defense.

"It is just creating extra work for us — which is fine — but overburdening an already almost broken system," Konings said. "It's incredibly obvious that the administration is targeting immigrants at large, particularly unaccompanied minors, and they're doing it on every front." □



In this June 20, 2018, file photo, immigrant children walk in a line outside the Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children, a former Job Corps site that now houses them in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press

ian and declares they are eligible to apply.

A now-22-year-old woman in Northern California, who requested anonymity out of fear the U.S. government will retaliate against her for speaking out, fled her Mexican immigrant parents' home in high school after her father repeatedly beat her.

She was taken in by a teacher, who helped her get started in college and took care of her when she was diagnosed with cancer. When a judge formally named the teacher her legal guardian it was a huge relief, she said. But she later learned the U.S. government wouldn't accept the court's order for her green card application. She dropped to the floor and sobbed, she said.

"I just couldn't believe I was going to have to try to defend myself again," she

immigrants have obtained green cards by qualifying for special immigrant juvenile status since 2010. The overwhelming majority of applications have been approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, making the program a safer bet for many immigrant children seeking refuge in the United States than pleading a case before an immigration officer or judge for asylum.

Applications to the program have surged in recent years, rising more than three-fold between the 2014 and 2017 fiscal years, federal data shows. During that time, the number of denials also increased, with 2,000 applications rejected over the past two fiscal years — more than all of the previous seven years combined.

The change was most notable in the nine months

in the 2017 fiscal year and 4 percent of decisions in the 2016 fiscal year were denials.

The U.S. government started reviewing applications at a centralized location in late 2016 to improve efficiency. The following year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services sought legal guidance from the agency's Office of Chief Counsel for cases involving immigrant children who turned 18 before their paperwork had been completed and determined that a state court order is only valid if that court has the authority to reunite children with their parents, which many don't, according to agency officials.

As a result, 260 cases were denied, they said, adding that the agency may have previously approved some cases that it should not have. USCIS officials said



This undated booking file photo provided by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department shows Gustavo Perez Arriaga.

Associated Press

Mexican man charged with killing cop gets mental health exam

MODESTO, Calif. (AP) — A Mexican national accused of living in the U.S. illegally was charged with murder Wednesday in the shooting death of a California police officer who pulled him over to check if he was driving drunk.

Gustavo Perez Arriaga made his first court appearance in the central California city of Modesto but did not enter a plea in last week's killing of Cpl. Ronil Singh of the tiny Newman Police Department.

Perez Arriaga's attorney, Stephen Foley, questioned his client's mental competency, leading the court to delay the case until the suspect gets a mental health evaluation, The Modesto Bee newspaper reported. Perez Arriaga told the judge that his real name is Paulo Virgen Mendoza, but

authorities were still referring to him as Perez Arriaga. A complaint lists three aliases for him, including Paulo Virgen Mendoza.

Singh's family and several of the Police Department's 12 officers attended the hearing. Dozens of people stood outside the courthouse holding signs that read, "Justice for Col. Ronil Singh" and "Back the Blue." Perez Arriaga is set to return to court Feb. 7, when a court-appointed doctor will provide a report on his mental health, said John Goold, a spokesman for the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office.

Perez Arriaga was arrested Friday after a dayslong manhunt as he prepared to flee to Mexico, officials said. He has two previous drunken driving arrests, authorities say.

The case has rekindled a debate over California's sanctuary law that limits cooperation with federal immigration authorities. President Donald Trump seized on the case to call for tougher border security amid a fight with congressional Democrats over funding for a border wall, which has forced a partial government shutdown.

Cpl. Singh was also an immigrant, coming to the U.S. legally from his native Fiji to pursue his dream of serving in law enforcement, authorities have said. He joined the Newman police force in 2011. The 33-year-old was married and had a 5-month-old son.

Two of Perez Arriaga's brothers, his girlfriend and four others were arrested on suspicion of helping him evade authorities. □

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Marine from Minnesota shot to death at barracks

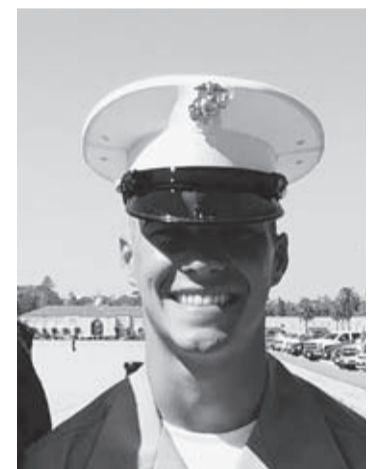
WASHINGTON (AP) — A 20-year-old U.S. Marine from Minnesota was killed in a shooting at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., his mother said Wednesday.

Markelle Kuznia told The Associated Press that the military notified her late Tuesday that her son, Riley Kuznia, died early that morning. Kuznia said the military has not provided her with details of her son's death.

The U.S. Marine Corps said in a statement that the shooting was under investigation and that there was no danger to local residents "as the event transpired within the grounds of Marine Barracks 8th and I." Marine Corps spokesman Chief Gunnery Sgt. John Jackson said the wound "was not self-inflicted."

Through her tears, Kuznia said her son felt it was his duty to serve.

"He just wanted to serve. Ever since he was little, he talked about being a soldier," Kuznia said from her home in Karlstad, a community of about 800 people in northwestern Minnesota. Kuznia joined the Marines after graduating from Tri-County High School in 2017, she said.



This 2017 photo provided by Morgan Kuznia shows her brother Riley Kuznia at his Marine graduation ceremony in San Diego. The 20-year-old U.S. Marine from Minnesota was killed in a shooting at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., his mother said Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Riley Kuznia had his life planned out, his mother said.

"When he got out (of the military), he was going to start his own construction business. He said he wanted to give five years to his country," she said. He planned to marry his high school girlfriend, she added.

"He loved to hunt and fish. He always wanted a cabin on a lake with a boat," his mother said. "He was just a good kid." □

6 die in Denmark's worst train accident since 1988

By JAN M. OLSEN
COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Six passengers were killed when a Danish train sustained damage while crossing a bridge that was closed to cars because of high wind Wednesday, and authorities investigated if falling cargo from a freight train caused Denmark's deadliest railway accident in 30 years.

Authorities said the two trains were traveling in opposite directions on the bridge linking Denmark's islands. Aerial TV footage showed a front side of the passenger train ripped open. Photos showed crates of beer on the freight train and a tarpaulin on top torn in pieces.

Jesper Nielsen told Denmark's TV2 he was riding on the passenger train and it "was out on the bridge when there was a huge 'bang' ... very quickly thereafter, the train braked."

The rail operator, Danish Railways, told Denmark's TV2 the victims were passengers on a train going



People walk near damaged cargo compartments on a train parked near the Storebaelt bridge, near Nyborg in Denmark, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

from the city of Odense, on the central Danish island of Funen, to the capital of Copenhagen when the accident took place about 8 a.m.

Police declined to comment directly on a report from Denmark's TV2 chan-

nel that a large freight container had likely fallen off the cargo train.

"It is much too early to speculate as to what might have caused it," chief police investigator Joergen Andersen told reporters. "It has been a pretty serious

accident."

The accident, in which 16 people were injured, took place on a road-and-rail bridge, part of the Storebaelt system of bridges and a tunnel that link the Danish islands of Zealand and Funen. The system was closed

to cars overnight because of strong winds but trains were allowed to continue using it.

Police spokesman Lars Braemhoej said one possible cause of the "considerable damage" on the passenger train was getting struck by cargo from the freight train, but noted that authorities "do not know precisely what caused the accident."

Kasper Elbjoern, spokesman for the Danish brewery group Carlsberg, confirmed that a freight train transporting its cargo was involved in the accident.

Police urged passengers to contact relatives and tell them if they were safe and urged people not to share photos or videos of the accident.

Flemming Jensen, the CEO of state-owned Danish Railways, said police and the Danish Accident Investigation Board were investigating. He said the operator "will contribute everything that we can to the investigation." □

Somalia declares UN envoy persona non grata



In this Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, file photo, Mukhtar Robow, who was once deputy leader of Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab, speaks at a press conference about his candidacy for a regional presidency, in Baidoa, Somalia.

Associated Press

By ABDI GULED
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Somalia's government has ordered the United Nations envoy to the country to leave, amid questions over the arrest of the al-Shabab

extremist group's former deputy leader who had run for a regional presidency.

A foreign ministry statement late Tuesday accuses Nicholas Haysom of diplomatic overreach that violated the Horn of Africa

nation's sovereignty, declaring him "persona non grata." He arrived as envoy a few months ago.

Haysom had questioned the legal basis used in the arrest last month of Mukhtar Robow, a former al-Shabab spokesman who defected from the group in 2017, and whether U.N.-funded regional police in the Southwest were involved.

Ethiopian troops who are part of the African Union force in Somalia and Somali police arrested Robow days before the regional election in which Robow had been a leading candidate. Deadly protests followed. Ethiopia has not commented.

Robow was flown to Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, and has been held in a prison run by Somalia's intelligence agency.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said the U.N. was looking into the matter before determining what

steps to take.

Haysom, who was outside Somalia, did not respond to a request for comment. Instead, he and the spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general late Tuesday issued statements strongly condemning a mortar attack that hit the main U.N. compound in Mogadishu earlier in the day. Seven mortars landed inside the compound, leaving two U.N. staffers and a contractor with non-life-threatening injuries, Haysom's statement said. Al-Shabab claimed responsibility.

Robow's arrest has been seen as a high-profile test of Somalia's treatment of defectors from the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab, Africa's most active extremist group. Somalia's government welcomed his defection but not his popular candidacy to lead Southwest state, which took some officials by surprise.

In confirming Robow's ar-

rest, Somalia's security ministry cited the federal government's ban on his candidacy, which said he had not completed the defection process. The ministry also alleged that Robow had failed to renounce extremist ideology, and accused him of mobilizing armed forces.

A joint statement by the United States, more than a dozen countries, the AU mission and the United Nations expressed concern after the arrest and protests.

Haysom's letter to Somali authorities, seen by The Associated Press, questioned the legal framework of Somalia's defection process and asked how Somali authorities were able to detain Robow beyond the normal 48 hours.

The letter also questions the circumstances around civilian deaths during the protests and urges that they be "thoroughly and promptly investigated." □



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Russian baby rescued after nearly 36 hours in frozen rubble

By JIM HEINTZ

MOSCOW (AP) — Laboring through sub-freezing temperatures, Russian rescue workers were digging into a sprawling heap of jagged rubble from a collapsed apartment building when one heard the faintest sound.

It was the sound of life.

On Tuesday, to everyone's delight and surprise, they pulled a baby boy out of the rubble alive, nearly 36 hours after the disaster that blew apart his home. His father called it "a New Year's miracle."

The building collapse in the Russian city of Magnitogorsk before dawn Monday has killed at least nine people so far, and officials say 32 people who lived in the building have still not been accounted for.

The collapse followed an explosion that was believed to have been caused by a gas leak.

The boy, an 11-month-old



Emergency Situations employees working at the scene of a collapsed apartment building in Magnitogorsk, a city of 400,000 people, about 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) southeast of Moscow, Russia, Monday, Dec. 31, 2018.

Associated Press

named Ivan Fokin, was in extremely serious condition, officials said, with fractures, a head injury and suffering from hypothermia and

frostbite after his ordeal in temperatures around minus 20 degrees Celsius (minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit). He was flown to Moscow

late Tuesday in a desperate attempt to save his life. He was in stable condition on arrival in the capital, the head of the national pub-

lic health institute Vladimir Uiba was quoted as telling state news agency Tass.

Although Ivan's prospects for survival appeared dire, "it's a New Year's miracle," his father Yevgeny was quoted as saying by the RT satellite TV channel.

The father was at work when his wife phoned to say the building had collapsed. She escaped the rubble with a 3-year-old son, Russian news reports said.

"I was sleeping on the couch with my older son, hugging him and the young one was sleeping in his baby bed," mother Olga Fokina said on Russian TV. "I and the older one fell down and quickly got out and I didn't know what happened to the baby bed afterward."

Rescue worker Pyotr Gritsenko said on Russian television that baby's discovery came after one of the crew heard faint cries. □

Greece makes 3 migrants citizens for their wildfire rescues

By DEREK GATOPOULOS
ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Three migrant fishermen received Greek citizenship Wednesday for helping to rescue scores of people who were forced into the sea by flames from a summer wildfire that would leave 100 people dead. Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos hosted a ceremony for Gani Xheka, 35, from Albania and Egyptians Emad El Khaimi, 50, and Mahmoud Ibrahim Musa, 46, both to honor them and aimed at "sending a message to Europe" to counter anti-immigrant sentiment.

The three men pulled peo-

ple from the water who had fled the out-of-control wildfire in the seaside resort of Mali by swimming out to sea and had difficulty breathing because of heavy smoke. The trio also guided survivors to a port after the July 23 blaze reached the shoreline and gutted hundreds of homes. "In a situation like that, when you are talking about people's lives, there's no religion, no black people, no white people. You just have to help people who are in danger," El Khaimi said after the ceremony. The death toll from Greece's worst wildfire in decades included victims who drowned after seeking safety in the sea, as well as

people who were trapped inside their homes or along narrow roads. The decision to grant the three men Greek citizenship was published in the official government gazette on Dec. 21 but formally announced Wednesday. "The three foreign nationals, displaying self-sacrifice and ignoring the dangers, joined Greek fishermen and saved dozens of our fellow citizens, including many children whose lives were at risk," the decision said. "Their self-denial and the exceptional contribution ... warrant the application of legal provisions for honorary naturalization." Interior Minister Alexis Charistis, who attended the ceremony, said



In this Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018 file photo people swim at a beach in Rafina, east of Athens, ten days after the Greece's deadliest wildfire in decades that killed 100 people.

Associated Press

the "human values" the fishermen displayed are ones people "must hold dear because unfortunately, there

has been a reappearance in Greece and in Europe of voices of racism and hatred." □

Israeli settlement activity appears to surge in Trump era

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With little resistance from a friendly White House, Israel has launched a new settlement push in the West Bank since President Donald Trump took office, laying the groundwork for what could be the largest construction binge in years, according to data obtained by The Associated Press.

The figures, gathered from official government sources by the anti-settlement monitoring group Peace Now, show an increase in building in 2018 and a sharp spike in planning for future construction.

This trend, highlighted last week when an Israeli committee advanced plans for thousands more settlement homes on war-won lands, has only deepened Palestinian mistrust of the Trump administration as it says it is preparing to roll out a Mideast peace plan. Each new settlement expansion further diminishes the chances of setting up a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Both supporters and opponents of settlements confirm a change in atmosphere since early 2017, when Trump took over from Barack Obama, whose administration had tried to rein in construction.

"The feeling of the (Israeli) government is everything is allowed, that the time to do things is now because the (U.S.) administration is the most pro-settlement you can ever have," said Hagit Ofran of Peace Now's Settlement Watch program.

Peace Now uses several measurements of settlement activity. These include "plans," or the bureaucratic stages of preparing a project, including initial proposals; "tenders," when bids are solicited from contractors to do large projects; and "construction starts," when the building actually begins.

Each of these figures tells a different story. While construction starts give a snapshot of the current level of settlement activity, they reflect decisions made years



In this Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 photo, men work on a new housing project in the West Bank settlement of Naale.

Associated Press

ago. In contrast, the planning and tender stages are seen as forward-looking indicators of a government's intentions.

The data compiled by Peace Now showed a drop in construction starts during Trump's first year in office, to 1,643 units in 2017 from 3,066 units the previous year. This drop appears to reflect the lingering effect of reduced planning during the final two years of the Obama administration. But the data for the first nine months of 2018 indicate the beginning of a Trump effect, with construction starts 20 percent higher than the same period a year earlier.

These trends are even more evident when looking at the planning process. In 2017, plans were advanced to build 6,712 new settlement homes, roughly 2.5 times the 2016 level.

In 2018, plans for an additional 5,618 units were advanced, nearly half of which were processed last week alone. Together, these numbers are the highest level of planning seen since 2013. At that time, Israel pushed forward settlement construction to counter criticism of its release of Palestinian prisoners as part of then-Secretary of State John Kerry's peace efforts.

A United Nations spokesman reiterated in response

to a question on the topic at a Wednesday news briefing that the world body has called for a halt to all settlement activity. A 2016 U.N. Security Council resolution condemned them as a "flagrant violation" of international law.

The biggest surge in settlement activity during the Trump era is in tenders—large projects that are ready to be launched.

In 2017, 3,154 tenders were issued, up from just 42 during Obama's final year in office. In 2018, that number rose to over 3,800, the highest number by far since Peace Now started compiling the data in 2002. This sets the stage for a huge jump in construction in the near future.

"There's definitely a change of atmosphere. There's definitely a change of winds," said Oded Revivi, mayor of Efrat, a major settlement near Jerusalem, and the chief foreign envoy of the Yesha settlement council.

Revivi said that Obama pressured Israel into greatly curtailing settlement activity. Now, he said, Israel is trying to make up for lost time. "Basically what you're seeing now is the statistics are trying to catch up to the needs that were built up during the eight years of the Obama administration, when everything was in a standstill," Revivi said.

White House Mideast envoy Jason Greenblatt's office declined comment, and State Department officials were not immediately available for comment due to the government shutdown.

The Palestinians and most of the international community consider Israeli settlements to be illegal and obstacles to peace. Over 400,000 Israelis now live in the West Bank, in addition to 200,000 in east Jerusalem. The Palestinians seek both areas, captured by Israel in 1967, as parts of their state.

For decades, a string of U.S. presidents, both Republican and Democrat, condemned settlement construction.

Things quickly changed when Trump took office. Trump refused to condemn settlement construction and surrounded himself with advisers — including his son-in-law Jared Kushner and Ambassador to Israel David Friedman — who are Orthodox Jews with close ties to settlements. Trump at times has asked Israel to show restraint, but his administration has remained largely silent as Israel has pressed ahead with its construction efforts over the past two years.

This has been welcome news to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose

outgoing coalition is dominated by religious and nationalist settlement sympathizers. Favored to win re-election in April, Netanyahu has said he expects his next government to look very similar.

Israel never annexed the West Bank, meaning the Israeli military remains the sovereign there. Construction in the West Bank requires approval from COGAT, a Defense Ministry body that oversees civilian affairs in the territory.

Plans are submitted by the government to COGAT's Higher Planning Council, which decides if they meet legal criteria.

COGAT routinely portrays decisions on new settlement activity as a technical matter, playing down the political impact. In a statement, COGAT said it acts in accordance with planning and building laws in the West Bank.

Critics say COGAT routinely promotes settlement expansion and development at the expense of Palestinian communities in the 60 percent of the West Bank that is under full Israeli control. Palestinians have varying degrees of autonomy, including over building permits, in the remaining areas of the West Bank, where most Palestinians live.

The offices of Avigdor Lieberman, who served as defense minister in 2017 and 2018, and his deputy, Eli Ben-Dahan, did not respond to requests for comment. Both are strong supporters of the settlements and settlers themselves.

The settlement surge has added to the Palestinians' distrust of the White House. The Palestinians cut off ties with the administration over a year ago after Trump recognized contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital. President Mahmoud Abbas has said he will reject any peace plan the Trump team presents.

Abbas' spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, said U.S. "silence and lack of condemnation and pressure" have given a "green light" to the Israeli government to step up settlement activity. □

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2 women enter Hindu temple in India, breaking years-long ban

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Two women on Wednesday entered one of India's largest Hindu pilgrimage sites that had been forbidden to females between the ages of 10 and 50, sparking protests across a southern state, with police firing tear gas at several places to disperse stone-throwing protesters, police said.

The Supreme Court lifted a ban in September on women worshipping at Sabarimala temple in Kerala state. The ban was informal for many years, but became law in 1972.

Despite the ruling, demonstrators including Hindu priests and conservatives continued to block women



Protestors block traffic and shout slogans reacting to reports of two women of menstruating age entering the Sabarimala temple, one of the world's largest Hindu pilgrimage sites, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

of menstruating age from entering the centuries-old temple.

The two women in their forties entered the temple

early Wednesday and worshipped there, said Pramod Kumar, the state police spokesman. Officers escorted the two women to

the hilltop temple because of "police responsibility to provide protection to any devotee irrespective of gender," Kumar said.

Kerala's top elected official, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, told reporters that under the Supreme Court order, police were bound to safeguard worshippers.

"Earlier, women were not able to enter the temple due to certain hurdles. They were able to enter the shrine today," Vijayan said. Protests broke out in several places in the state after the women entered the temple. Protesters blocked several roads and threw stones at law enforcement officials, sparking clashes, said Kumar, the police spokes-

man, adding that police fired tear gas to quell the violence.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Kumar said police were gearing up for more protests on Thursday because several political and Hindu groups have called for a general strike to protest the women's entry. He said authorities would provide "all possible security" to businesses. On Tuesday, millions of women formed a human chain more than 600 kilometers (375 miles) long from Kasargod in the northern part of the state to Thiruvananthapuram, the southernmost city and the state capital, to support gender equality. □

China's leader urges action on unification with Taiwan

By KEN MORITSUGU

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping, declaring that independence is not an option for Taiwan, urged both sides to reach an early consensus on unification and not leave the issue for future generations. No one or no party can stop the trend toward unification, the Chinese leader said Wednesday in a policy speech devoted to Taiwan. He said independence for the self-governing island is against history and a dead end.

"We are willing to create a vast space for peaceful unification, but we will never leave any room for any sort of Taiwan independence separatist activities," he said.

Taiwan's leader rejected his call just hours later.

President Tsai Ing-wen said her island of 23 million people would never accept the "one country, two systems" approach proposed by Beijing.

"China must face the fact of the existence of Taiwan, Republic of China, and not deny the system of a democratic country that has been commonly built up by the Taiwanese people," she said.

Taiwan split from China in a civil war that brought the Communist Party to power in China in 1949. The rival Nationalists set up their own government on the island about 160 kilometers (100 miles) off the Chinese mainland.

Xi proposed talks between the two sides to work out "a systematic arrangement for the peaceful development of the cross-strait rela-



Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks during an event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Message to Compatriots in Taiwan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

tionship."

Tsai said that Taiwan is willing to talk, but it must be with the approval of the Taiwanese people. She has irked Beijing by refusing to endorse the "one China" principle that designates Taiwan as a part of China. "Deviating from the one

China principle will result in tension and turbulence in cross-strait relations, harming the interests of the Taiwanese compatriots," Xi said.

He pledged that a one-country, two-systems framework would respect the Taiwanese social sys-

tem and way of life and guarantee their property rights, religious beliefs and other rights.

"The political disputes that have existed for a long time ... affect the healthy and continuous development of the cross-strait relationship and cannot be passed from generation to generation," Xi said.

He warned against foreign interference in the issue, though he didn't mention the United States by name. People on both sides of the strait belong to the same family, he said, and family matters should be resolved by family members.

Xi said that China reserved the right to use force if necessary to counter interference by external forces and what he called an extremely small number of Taiwanese separatists. □

Brazil's Bolsonaro targets minorities on 1st day in office

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

SAO PAULO (AP) — Newly installed President Jair Bolsonaro targeted Brazil's indigenous groups, descendants of slaves and the LGBT community with executive orders in the first hours of his administration, moving quickly after a campaign in which the far-right leader said he would radically overhaul many aspects of life in Latin America's largest nation.

Sao Paulo's stock market, meanwhile, jumped 3.56 percent to a record closing of 91,012 points as new Cabinet ministers reinforced the intent to privatize state-owned companies and a Brazilian arms maker benefited from Bolsonaro's plans to loosen gun controls. Similar spikes in stock prices also occurred during the presidential campaign.

One of the orders issued late Tuesday, hours after Bolsonaro's inauguration, likely will make it all but impossible for new lands to be identified and demarcated for indigenous communities. Areas set aside for "Quilombolas," as descendants of former slaves are known, are also affected by the decision.

Another order removed the concerns of the LGBT community from consideration by the new human rights ministry.

In a move favorable to his allies in agribusiness, which have criticized giving large swaths of lands to the indigenous, Bolsonaro transferred the responsibilities for delineating indigenous territories from the Justice Ministry to the Agriculture Ministry. The new agriculture minister, Tereza Cristina, is part of the agribusiness caucus in Brazil's lower house and has opposed requests from native com-



Flanked by first lady Michelle Bolsonaro, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro waves as he rides in an open car after his swearing-in ceremony, in Brasilia, Brazil, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

munities.

Bolsonaro, a former army captain and longtime congressman, said during his presidential campaign that he would stop making what he calls concessions to native Brazilians and Quilombolas.

"Less than one million people live in those places isolated from the real Brazil," he tweeted Wednesday. "They are explored and manipulated by nonprofits. Together we will integrate those citizens and give value to all Brazilians."

The Justice Ministry previously handled demarcation of indigenous lands through the FUNAI agency, which also oversees other initiatives for indigenous groups such as health care, housing and language preservation. Bolsonaro's order is raising uncertainties about FUNAI by shifting it to a new ministry for family, women and human rights that is headed by an ultra-conservative evangelical pastor.

Observatorio do Clima, a

network of 45 Brazilian civil society groups, criticized the executive orders, calling them "only the first step on meeting Bolsonaro's campaign promises of dismantling environmental governance, stripping indigenous peoples of their rights and opening up indigenous lands for business."

"The attack on FUNAI goes beyond the wildest dreams of the rural caucus, who had tried for years to pass a constitutional amendment transferring the demarcation of indigenous lands from the president to Congress," the nonprofit said. "Bolsonaro solved the problem by transferring them directly to farmers."

The far-right leader said last year that he also wants to annul land demarcation decisions made by previous administrations, but legal experts say recent Brazilian Supreme Court rulings could block such move.

New Health Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta also suggested on Wednesday

that there will be spending cuts in health care for the indigenous.

"We have figures for the general public that are much below what is spent on health care for the indigenous," he said, without providing details.

In removing LGBT concerns from the responsibilities of the human rights ministry, Bolsonaro did not name any agency to consider such issues. He has strongly criticized what he calls "gender-based ideology," saying it is a threat to Brazil's Christian values.

Damara Alves, the new human rights minister, did not discuss the LGBT order in her first address on the job, but the evangelical pastor has insisted over the years that "the Brazilian family is being threatened" by diversity policies.

On Wednesday, she said: "The state is lay, but this minister is terribly Christian." Under the new administration, Alves added, "Girls will be princesses and boys will be princes. There will be no

more ideological indoctrination of children and teenagers in Brazil."

LGBT activist Symmy Larrat said she doesn't expect reasonable treatment from the Bolsonaro administration.

"The human rights ministry discussed our concerns at a body called secretariat of promotion and defense of human rights. That body just disappeared, just like that. We don't see any signs there will be any other government infrastructure to handle LGBT issues," she said.

The newspaper Folha de S.Paulo reported that Bolsonaro will later announce the closing of an agency within the Education Ministry that has been aimed at promoting diversity in public schools and universities. New Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo indirectly criticized the LGBT community as being "those that say they are not men and women."

Also on Wednesday, the Brazilian Press Association criticized restrictions on journalists at Bolsonaro's inauguration. Reporters had to arrive seven hours before the events began and were forbidden to move freely in Congress and the presidential palace. Food was seized and access to bathrooms and water was limited. "What was seen in different scenarios of Brasilia is incompatible with a democratic regime," the association said in a statement. "Respect to the press is one of the main indicators of nations that consider themselves civilized."

Bolsonaro's first day in office sparked a wave of optimism in Brazil's financial market. Stocks of Brazil's electric-company Eletrobras soared more than 20 percent. □

Puerto Rico policeman detained after holding people hostage

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rican officials say a police officer took about 30 employees hostage at a credit union on the island,

then surrendered peacefully after a couple of hours. No shots were fired and no one was injured.

Police say officer Gabriel Hernandez entered the

Caribbean Federal Credit Union in Guaynabo near the U.S. territory's capital Wednesday and made unspecified demands. Authorities say other police

arrived and were able to evacuate most of the hostages. He later gave himself up.

It was not immediately clear if Hernandez had a

lawyer to comment on the case.

The FBI is helping investigate the case.

No charges have been filed. □

LOCAL



Sgt. Pepper's Friends say Happy New Year



ORANJESTAD — Sgt. Pepper's Friends is a non-profit animal rescue organization founded and located in Aruba. Their dogs and cats are available for adoption in the United States, Canada, Aruba, the Netherlands and Sweden as of now. Every country they add to the list requires careful research, but they hope open up to families in other countries in the future as well.

As we move into 2019, the organization is so amazed at everything accomplished this past year. 2018 was a year of growth, love, support and lots of rescues. Looking back over this past year brings colorful memories and of course an array of changes. Some changes may feel small, like transporting or adopting an animal, sterilizing a stray animal, but they have such a huge impact on the life of that animal. Sgt. Pepper's Friends had had some larger changes this year, as they have been settling into their new property and expanding their operation. The organization sees change as an opportunity to do good and keep moving forward, knowing that this work will lead to bigger long-term changes in the lives of the animals in Aruba. They are proud of the extraordinary accomplishments Sgt. Pepper's has made in 2018 with this wonderful network of animal lovers, and they are very excited to see what 2019 has in store. Happy New Year's too all of you from the Sgt. Pepper's Friends Team!

2017 Rescues Looking for a Forever Home in 2019

As with any rescue, there is always a few animals that for one reason or another are over looked, but they know there is the perfect family out there for them. Oz is one dog that was rescued in 2017 and is still looking for his forever home. He was rescued at 16 weeks in August of 2017. Oz still being a young male is shy with new people but does great in his foster home with another dog.

There are also 3 cats, Mrs. Grey, Wolfie, and Licorice that were rescued in 2017, too. These fluffy loves are ready for the purrrfect home! These adult cats are social and friendly and are ready to start the New Year with a new

family!

Behind the Scenes - 2018 Wrap Up

The organization hopes everyone has rounded out the year with time to slowdown, celebrate the holidays with loved ones, and prepare to move into this year on a great note. The time leading up to the holidays can bring a lot of stress with the focus around giving, whether its gifts, giving our time, charitably or the energy participate in the many events, family meals and celebrations.



Continued on Page 14



HELP US HELP THEM BY BECOMING A FLIGHT VOLUNTEER!

Sgt. Pepper's Friends is a non profit organization based in Aruba. As most of our rescues are adopted to the USA and Canada, we are always looking for flight volunteers to help bring our rescues home. This process is very easy and rewarding! We arrange everything, from booking and paying for the rescue on your flight, to meeting you at the airport with the dog or cat and its papers, supplies and connect you with the adoptive family who will be waiting for you at baggage claim upon arrival. Please email us your flight date, airline and schedule should you want to help bring one of our rescues to their forever home. You can also fill in our flight volunteer form on our website under "Get involved": <http://www.sgtpeppersfriends.com/flight-volunteer-form/>



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Sgt. Pepper's Friends say Happy New Year

Continued from Page 13

We hope in this time, everyone was able to experience the joy of receiving as well, whether it was a surprising gift, having a nice home cooked meal from loved one or perhaps puppy kisses from an excited rescue pup. Sgt. Pepper's Friends is thankful for all the donations and supplies they have received over this past year that truly make this rescue organization possible. They regularly come upon very challenging situations that can be truly heartbreaking, and they are appreciative that they are able to intervene with the help of all their supporters.

One of their major challenging situations this past month was an abandoned house with 3 adult dogs and over 20 cats all left behind, unsterilized and without food or water. When the organization receives reports like this they really have no idea what to do. They know this situation could quickly escalate with lots of new puppies and kittens if not addressed promptly. Thankfully, with your support and donations they were able to quickly spay and neuter all 3 dogs and 10 cats so far. In even better news, they have found homes for 2 of the dogs and 2 of the cats. The energy and faith in humanity are constantly renewed when everyone steps up to help with these major challenges.

1 Year Further

The New Year brings about another milestone for Sgt. Pepper's, it has been 1 year since the purchase of brick and mortar home, and bringing in the first mom dog and puppies. Lotus (now Roo) was the first mom dog with her 5 beautiful flower puppies who are all now in loving homes. Since then came Panda with 8 puppies, Indiana with 7 puppies, 9 Car and Motorcycle puppies, 8 Veggies puppies, 8 Artist puppies, Honey and 9 sweet puppies, 4 Indian puppies, 11 Superfood puppies, Kappa with 4 puppies, Nova with 8 puppies, 8 forest animal puppies, 6 American tribe puppies, leading them to being able to rescue an additional 101 puppies and momma dogs this year. They won't even try and count out all the kittens and cats, but it can easily be 50 cats that have been fostered at the Sgt. Pepper's home this year. One of their long-term goals is to be able to foster more adult dogs on the property, saving on costs related to boarding an adult dog at one of Aruba's dog hotels. However, they

have learned, and continue to, that this sort of undertaking will certainly take patience as their priority will always be on the health, rehabilitation and well-being of the animals.

Strike the Pose

This month they have had many fun events that were focused on expanding the awareness of the Organization. The Ritz-Carlton generously hosted 2 "Walk the Runway" events during the Holiday week. At the event Sgt. Pepper's Friends were able to bring around 20 adoptable animals dressed in their holiday best to strut their "ruff" on the Runway. Each animal did amazingly well and brought lots of great attention to the organization. Spreading awareness enables them to expand the number of animals they can care for and rehome. Don't forget, if you, your family or friends are visiting Aruba be sure to spread the good word.

Another major success for Aruba's animals in 2018 was the MASH spay and neuter campaign organized by United Dogs Aruba Foundation. This event successfully sterilized almost 400 animals in 4 days! During this time, they took in 72 additional rescues, of which, most were puppies and kittens that they felt were too young for sterilization but could not go back on the street. The aftermath of this event really stretched their capacity as we moved into summer months when the number of adoptions and transporters typically slow down. This year the organization is hoping to help organize a similar event earlier in the year, so they can help more animals and rehome many of the puppies and kittens without compromising their care or overstressing what they are capable of managing. If you are interested in supporting this effort which focuses on the long-term impact of strays, promoting sterilization, please consider donating \$20 to United Dogs Aruba to fund the cost of one operation at this event.

As you can see 2018 was a great year for Sgt. Pepper's Friends. They have now surpassed 1000 adopted animals in the 3.5 years since they introduced this effort. As well as having accomplished lots of major goals. They are looking forward to manifesting bigger accomplishments in 2019, and they hope the same for all of you. Thank you for your continued support and Happy New Year! ☐



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Feeling Sick during vacation?

At Your Service: Experienced Doctor & Pharmacy under one Roof



PALM BEACH — Feeling sick is a miserable thing during vacation. This is the time of the year you should enjoy and relax, so staying in a hotel room bed with a sunstroke, skin allergy, ear infection or intestinal problems can be a bummer. The best thing to do is to recover as soon as possible, and Dr. Lili Beke of the Aruba Walk-in Clinic, together with Palm Beach Service Pharmacy are a one-stop-shopping solution.

A Walk-In Clinic to Walk To

First of all she is calm, kind and understanding. Personal touch is her trade mark and with more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor she knows what's going on. Doctor Beke is located in Palm Beach, at the door steps of the hotel area and her clinic is appropriately named the Aruba Walk-In Clinic. "I'd like to put myself in the shoes of the visitor. Being in a strange place, sometimes far from family or even alone and feeling sick. You can feel lost and disorientated. I can understand that and try to give them comprehension and a welcome feeling while examining them. So they leave with a smile, even if they feel a bit sick." The doctor speaks seven languages: English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Papiamentu, meaning she can attend to almost any tourist from all over the world. "You can come in without an appointment and we have an emergency number that works 24/7, if necessary I will visit the patient where he/she is staying. We attend patients every day!" Her philosophy is as follows: As long as you enjoy what you are doing and like to help people, this profession is very rewarding." It sounds like the perfect place to heal.

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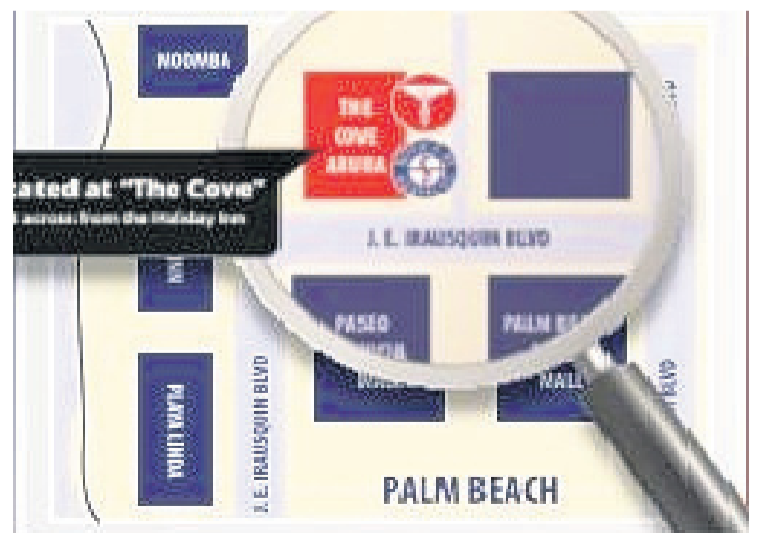


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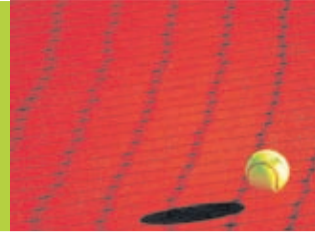
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SPORTS



In this photo from Dec. 30, 2018, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown stands on the sideline before an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Brown out? Tomlin frustrated with star receiver's antics

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike Tomlin doesn't want to say Antonio Brown bailed on the Pittsburgh Steelers. The longtime head coach is not ruling it out either. The star wide receiver went radio silent in the days before the team's regular-season finale against Cincinnati last Sunday, in essence abandoning the club in what Tomlin described as its "darkest hour." Though Brown did make a cameo appearance on the sideline — rocking a fur coat — as the Steelers edged the Bengals, he vanished before the final gun and did not show up on Monday for exit interviews and to clear out his locker. Tomlin said Brown arrived at practice last Wednesday reporting discomfort in his lower body.

Continued on Page 20



KAWHI-ET STORM

Leonard scores 45, Raptors beat Jazz 122-116

Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) is fouled going to the net by Utah Jazz forward Jae Crowder (99) as forward Royce O'Neale (23) watches during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, in Toronto.

Associated Press
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Nadal withdraws, Murray loses to Medvedev in Brisbane

By JOHN PYE

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Andy Murray lost his second-round match less than an hour after Rafael Nadal withdrew from the Brisbane International on Wednesday.

Both players arrived in Australia after long injury breaks, and neither had played a competitive match since September.

At least Murray completed two matches. Playing on a protected ranking after an injury-interrupted 18 months, he beat James Duckworth before losing to fourth-seeded Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-2. There were signs in both matches that he is still bothered by the hip problem which has derailed his last two seasons.

Defending women's champion Elina Svitolina also went out in the second round, losing to Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-4, 0-6, 6-3 in the last match of the day.

Murray, a three-time major champion, recovered a service break in the first set and was in the match at 5-5 until Medvedev won six straight games.

"As you play up the levels, whether it's issues with your game, like if you're not serving as well or if you're not moving as well, the better



Raphael Nadal of Spain announces that he is pulling out of the tournament due to an injury at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

players exploit that," Murray said. "He is a top player and is able to do that. I need to try and find a way of working out how to get around some of the things I struggle with a little bit now."

The second-ranked Nadal had a first-round bye but withdrew on the eve of his scheduled second-round match against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga after having an MRI

on a muscle strain in his left thigh.

Nadal said he'd head to Melbourne after a brief stopover in Sydney for a Fast4 event to prepare for the Australian Open. The 32-year-old Spaniard is hoping he can still win the season's first major, which starts on Jan. 14, despite his lack of match preparation. Doctors "say that it's a very

small thing, but can become a big thing," Nadal said during a news conference staged while Murray was playing Medvedev on Pat Rafter Arena. "When you increase the intensity on the muscle competing, then there is a big risk to make something bigger." Also exiting the men's draw on Wednesday where defending champion Nick

Kyrgios, who lost to Jeremy Chardy 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3, and third-seeded Kyle Edmund, who lost to Japanese qualifier Yasutaka Uchiyama 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Second-seeded Kei Nishikori beat and 2017 champion Grigor Dimitrov had straight-set wins earlier to set up a quarterfinal showdown — a rematch of their final in 2017. Also advancing were fifth-seeded Milos Raonic and seventh-seeded Alex De Minaur.

Anett Kontaveit beat fourth-seeded Petra Kvitová 7-5, 7-6 (1) to reach the women's quarterfinals, and Anastasija Sevastova advanced to a quarterfinal match against U.S. Open champion Naomi Osaka.

Fifth-seeded Karolina Plisková had a 7-5, 6-2 win over Marie Bouzková and will next meet Ajla Tomljanovic, who beat Johanna Konta 6-2, 7-6 (2). Donna Vekic ousted No. 6 Kiki Bertens 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-5 and will take on Sasnovich in the quarterfinals.

The absence of Nadal, who was replaced in the draw by Taro Daniel, and Murray puts more focus on the Nishikori-Dimitrov quarterfinal match. Nishikori opened his year with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Denis Kudla. □

Vlhova's height helps her beat Shiffrin in parallel slalom

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Petra Vlhova of Slovakia took advantage of her height to beat overall World Cup leader Mikaela Shiffrin in both runs of the final and win a parallel slalom city event Tuesday.

The 5-foot-11 (1.80 meters) Vlhova was able to cross check gates out of her way with both fists while the more compact Shiffrin, at 5-foot-7 (1.70 meters), had to maneuver further around the gates.

Cross checking is a key tactic in parallel events, which use wider gates with panels compared to traditional slaloms which have only poles as gates.

Vlhova finished 0.39 seconds ahead of Shiffrin for the sixth victory of her ca-



Slovakia's Petra Vlhova reacts after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup parallel slalom, at Holmenkollen in Oslo, Norway, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

reer, and second in five days following a giant slalom win in Semmering, Austria, last week. She led by 0.21 seconds after the first run.

Wendy Holdener of Switzerland beat Anna Swenn Larsson of Sweden for third. In the men's race, Austria's Marco Schwarz claimed the first World Cup victory

of his career when British opponent Dave Ryding missed a gate.

Schwarz's previous best finish was second in a traditional slalom in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, last month.

Ryding was attempting to become the first British skier — man or woman — in the 51-year history of the World Cup to win a race. He also finished second in a traditional slalom in Kitzbuehel, Austria, two years ago.

Ryding eliminated overall World Cup leader Marcel Hirscher in the quarterfinals when Hirscher straddled a gate as he attempted to erase a first-run deficit.

Ramon Zenhausern of Switzerland took third when Olympic champion Andre

Myhrer of Sweden skied out in the second run of the small final.

Vlhova and Schwarz, both 23, each won gold medals at the 2012 Youth Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

Needing to complete eight runs over four rounds to win in a knockout format, skiers were shuttled back up to the start after each leg following brief pit stops with their ski technicians.

The night event was held inside the Holmenkollen ski jumping arena, which was used for the 1952 Olympics. The World Cup resumes with slalom races for men and women in Zagreb, Croatia, this weekend.

Another parallel city event is scheduled for Stockholm, Sweden, on Feb. 19. □

Leonard scores career best 45, Raptors beat Jazz 122-116

By The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kawhi Leonard scored a career-high 45 points, Pascal Siakam had a career-best 28 points with 10 rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors beat the Utah Jazz 122-116 on Tuesday night. Norman Powell scored a season-high 14 points, and the Raptors won their fourth straight at home. Jae Crowder scored a career-high 30 points, Derrick Favors had 21 and Donovan Mitchell scored 19 as the Jazz dropped to 10-12 on the road and 18-20 overall. Utah's Rudy Gobert scored 16 points, and Ricky Rubio had 14. Leonard made all seven of his field-goal attempts in the third quarter and added five foul shots. His 19 points were the second most in any quarter by a Raptors player this season. Serge Ibaka scored 20 points in the first quarter of a Nov. 4 road win against the Los Angeles Lakers. Leonard shot 16 for 22

overall, missing all three attempts from 3-point range. He went 13 for 17 at the free-throw line. BUCKS 121, PISTONS 98 MILWAUKEE (AP) — Brook Lopez had 25 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo threw down a spectacular one-handed dunk and Milwaukee cruised past Detroit. Khris Middleton had 22 points and Eric Bledsoe had 18 for Milwaukee. Antetokounmpo had just 15 points, but his slam over Jon Leuer was the highlight of the night. Antetokounmpo blew past Andre Drummond, jumped and reached his right arm over a leaping Leuer for the slam during the first quarter. Milwaukee has won four straight and eight of nine. The Bucks are an NBA-best 26-10. Blake Griffin had 29 points and nine rebounds, and Reggie Jackson scored 19 points for Detroit, which fell to 16-19. NUGGETS 115, KNICKS 108 DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic

had 19 points, 14 rebounds and 15 assists, including a late no-look pass to wrap things up, as Denver picked up its ninth straight home victory. Reserve Malik Beasley added a career-high 23 points for the Western Conference-leading Nuggets, who have now knocked off the Knicks 11 straight times at the Pepsi Center. It was far from easy, though, with the Nuggets needing a big 3-pointer from Jokic with 2:55 remaining to finally gain some separation. The struggling Knicks have lost eight in a row. Luke Kornet led the Knicks with 19 points, while reserve Enes Kanter scored 17 points and grabbed 12 points. Kanter's recently voiced his displeasure about his role with the Knicks. TRAIL BLAZERS 113, KINGS 108, OT SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Damian Lillard shook off a sluggish night shooting to score five of his 25 points in overtime, and Portland



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) goes to the basket over Utah Jazz guard Dante Exum (11) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, in Toronto. Associated Press

rallied after blowing a 14-point halftime lead. Jusuf Nurkic had 24 points and a career-high 23 rebounds to help Portland to its fourth straight win over Sacramento. CJ McCollum added 16 points, and Maurice Harkless had 11 points and nine rebounds. □

Purdue super fan who inspired with fight against cancer dies

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tyler Trent, a former Purdue University student and college football super fan who inspired many with his battle against cancer, died Tuesday. He was 20 years old. His family confirmed the death to The Indianapolis Star. Trent wanted to be a sportswriter and was determined to attend Purdue despite suffering three bouts with a rare bone cancer, first diagnosed at age 15. He entered Purdue in the fall of 2017 while undergoing chemotherapy. He camped out with another student to get good seats to a Purdue-Michigan football game, just hours after chemotherapy. He gained national attention in 2018 by becoming the adopted captain of the Boilermakers football team. He was in a wheel-

chair for Purdue's upset win over Ohio State, which was ranked No. 2 in the nation at the time. He became a social media star with his positive attitude and determination to live every day to the fullest despite the illness. "Though I am in hospice care and have to wake up every morning knowing that the day might be my last, I still have a choice to make: to make that day the best it can be," Trent wrote in a guest column for the newspaper in early December. Trent earned an associate degree from Purdue in computer information technology. The Purdue athletic department offered condolences to Trent's family and friends in a statement posted on its website. "While there are no words to ease the hurt at times



In this Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018, photo, Central Catholic players present Tyler Trent, foreground, with a check to benefit Riley Children's Hospital before meeting Lafayette Jeff in a high school volleyball game, in Lafayette, Ind.

Associated Press

like this, we hope some comfort can be found in knowing what an inspiration Tyler is to our student-athletes, coaches, staff and fans," the statement

said. "The entire Purdue Athletics family has been touched by his courageous battle, positive spirit and unwavering faith. Tyler was the embodiment of a

true Boilermaker who will live on in each of us. We will forever be #TylerStrong." Last year, Purdue created a scholarship, the Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award, for an undergraduate who has encountered adversity while pursuing a college degree. The Tyler Trent Cancer Research Endowment also was set up to support cancer research at Purdue and received more than \$100,000 in donations. In December, Trent won Disney's Wide World of Sports Spirit Award, given annually to college football's most inspirational individual or team. "Tyler Trent was among the biggest, strongest and wisest people you could ever meet," said Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb. "He reminded us what being good is all about." □

Saints, Rams, Bears finish as top 3 in AP Pro32 poll

By **SIMMI BUTTAR**

NEW YORK (AP) — The chase to Atlanta is on.

The regular season is over and there are 12 teams remaining in the run to the Super Bowl.

And at the top of the AP Pro32 poll, the new year starts right where the previous one ended.

The New Orleans Saints, Los Angeles Rams and Chicago Bears, the top three seeds in the NFC, retained their top three spots in the final AP Pro32 poll of the season.

New Orleans received 11 of the 12 first-place votes for 382 points in balloting Wednesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL. New Orleans will open the playoffs at home in the divisional round on Sunday, Jan. 13.

"The Saints lost in Week 1 and Week 17, both at home," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida. "In between, Drew Brees and company established



New Orleans Saints receiver Michael Thomas makes a catch during an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018 in New Orleans.

Associated Press

themselves as the team to beat in the Super Bowl chase."

The Rams, who also finished 13-3 in the regular season, will start their postseason at the Coliseum on Saturday, Jan. 12.

The Bears will close wild-card weekend when they

host the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles on Sunday.

The next six spots in the poll are all taken by the AFC's playoffs teams.

The Chiefs, who have the AFC's top seed, are No. 4. Kansas City, which received the remaining first-

place vote — from John Czarnecki of Fox Sports — has won the AFC West for three consecutive seasons. Patrick Mahomes, who finished with 5,097 yards and 50 TD passes, will try to get Kansas City its first home playoff win since the 1993 season.

"MVP front-runner Patrick Mahomes finished a brilliant first season as a starter with 50 touchdown passes," said Newsday's Bob Glauber. "With home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs, is a Super Bowl berth next?"

The Los Angeles Chargers and New England Patriots finished in a tie at No. 5 in the poll.

The Patriots, who won the AFC East for the 10th straight season and 15th time in the past 16 seasons, are the No. 2 seed in the AFC. They are trying to reach their ninth Super Bowl in the Bill Belichick-Tom Brady era. They are also trying to become the first team since the 1990s Buffalo Bills to return to the Super Bowl after losing it the previous season, and the first since the 1992 Bills to make a third successive trip to the big game.

The Chargers, despite finishing with the same record as the Chiefs at 12-4, lost the tiebreaker and are the No. 5 seed in the AFC. □



Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin meets with reporters after an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

BROWN OUT?

Continued from Page 17

The team gave Brown the day off, did so again on Thursday. On Friday, Tomlin sent Brown home to rest and suggested he get an MRI on the banged up knee.

Tomlin did not hear from Brown on Saturday to get an update. When Drew Rosenhaus, Brown's agent, reached out on Sunday morning to tell Tomlin that Brown was available to play, Tomlin "drew a line in the sand" and said Brown could best serve the Steelers by cheering on the side-

line.

While Tomlin demurred when asked during his season-ending news conference on Wednesday if Brown "quit," the longtime head coach offered little in defense of the perennial Pro Bowler, whose historic production has become increasingly at odds with his erratic off-the-field behavior.

"The bottom line is we were playing a significant game and he didn't do a good enough job of communicating of being available in the hours leading up to that performance," Tomlin

said.

"So we needed to make decisions pertinent to getting to play in that performance. So, I've been real clear at outlining what transpired, the level of communication, things of that nature. Obviously there are some things within that that you can infer, certainly."

Rather than spend time elaborating on how the Steelers went from 7-2-1 the week before Thanksgiving to 9-6-1 and missing the postseason for the first time since 2013 — a collapse Tomlin plans to "wallow" in over the next few weeks — he spent the majority of his time responding to questions about Brown.

It's nothing new. The 30-year-old is the only player in NFL history with six straight 100-catch seasons, but has become adept at drawing headlines for things that have nothing to do with football, be it livestreaming from the postgame locker room in Kansas City two years ago to threatening a reporter from ESPN on social media in September to suggesting on Twitter he should be

traded.

It hasn't stopped. As Tomlin spoke, Brown — who has three years remaining on his four-year, \$72 million extension he signed in the spring of 2017 — published a post on Instagram to his 3.1 million followers saying "I am divinely blessed with free will. I utilize that gift, choosing to take charge of my life." Brown also appeared with former teammate James Harrison, who promised an exclusive "interview" with Brown. Tomlin has long had a policy of trying to tune out what his players say or do on social media, but admitted there's a level of "disappointment" when it comes to Brown's actions before adding it's immaterial to his job.

Asked if there's a point with Brown or any player where the distractions can outweigh the on-the-field benefits, Tomlin said "certainly." Whether the Steelers are at that point is unclear. Tomlin said the team has not received any "formal" trade requests from Brown's camp.

Tomlin declined to get into

what punishment Brown may face in the future, saying the club is still gathering information. Tomlin does believe that Brown was dealing with some type of injury, but added to his knowledge that Brown has not undergone the MRI. "Like we do in all circumstances, we will deal with it appropriately and deal with it in-house," Tomlin said.

Brown's future status is just one of a number of questions the Steelers will face over the next few months, starting with the coaching staff. The defense and special teams both had critical missteps this season and offensive line coach Mike Munchak is in the mix for several open head coaching positions.

"When you lack success, when you fail, change is a part of it," Tomlin said. "We talk about it. As a staff we talk about it. As players, in exit meetings. That's just our business."

So lately, has been addressing the perpetual drama surrounding one of the NFL's most talented and mercurial players. □



In this Tuesday, March 14, 2017, file photo, Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin, of Russia, looks on from the bench during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Minnesota Wild in Washington.

Associated Press

Alex Ovechkin to skip NHL All-Star Game, be suspended 1 game

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin will skip the All-Star Weekend in San Jose to get some extra rest and serve an automatic one-game suspension. The Washington Capitals announced Ovechkin's decision Wednesday. The team says the NHL's leading goal-scorer wants to take advantage of the adjoining bye week to prepare for the second half of the season. "My body needs a rest," Ovechkin said after practice on Wednesday. The 33-year-old has played in all 33 games this season and leads the Capitals with 45 points. Washington's final game before the All-Star break is Jan. 23 at Toronto. The All-Star game is Jan. 26, and

the Capitals don't play again until Feb. 1 against Calgary. Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly confirmed Ovechkin must miss either the game before or after the All-Star break. The NHL recently instituted an automatic one-game suspension for players who chose not to participate in All-Star Weekend, except in cases of injury. Fans voted Ovechkin, the reigning playoff MVP, as the captain of the Metropolitan Division All-Star team. It's not clear who would take over the spot, though the NHL's hockey operations department chooses the remaining All-Stars. Full All-Star rosters will be released Wednesday night. □



Boston Bruins right wing David Pastrnak (88), center, celebrate after scoring his goal against the Chicago Blackhawks in the first period of the NHL Winter Classic hockey game at Notre Dame Stadium, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, in South Bend, Ind.

Associated Press

Bruins beat B'hawks 4-2 in Winter Classic at Notre Dame

By The Associated Press
SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — David Pastrnak had a goal and an assist, Tuukka Rask made 36 saves and the Boston Bruins beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-2 on Tuesday in the Winter Classic at Notre Dame. Patrice Bergeron, Sean Kuraly and Brad Marchand also scored as Boston won for the second time in three appearances in the NHL's annual outdoor game on New Year's Day. The Bruins went 2 for 5 with the man advantage and killed off each of the Blackhawks' four power plays. Backed by most of the sell-out crowd of 76,126 in perfect conditions for outdoor hockey — the game-time temperature was 35.5 degrees, and a gray, overcast sky took the sun out of the equation — Chicago pushed hard for the tying score in the closing minutes, but came up empty. Brendan Perlini and Dominik

Kahun scored for the Blackhawks (15-21-6), and Cam Ward made 32 stops. Chicago had won five of six, but it remained winless in an NHL-high fourth appearance in the Winter Classic. It also dropped to 1-5 in six outdoor games — also tops in the league. **PREDATORS 4, FLYERS 0** NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Viktor Arvidsson scored twice, Juuse Saros made 32 saves and the Nashville Predators defeated the Philadelphia Flyers 4-0 Tuesday. Craig Smith and Rocco Grimaldi also scored for Nashville, which has won two straight. Michal Neuvirth made 26 saves for the Flyers, who have lost four in a row. The shutout was Saros' second of the season and the sixth of his career. Making his first start since Dec. 15, Saros was busy early, stopping 13 shots in the first period. He made 12 saves in the second and

seven in the third period. **GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2, KINGS 0** LAS VEGAS (AP) — Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 17 shots for his league-leading sixth shutout and Vegas blanked Los Angeles. Brandon Pirri continued his amazing scoring run for the Golden Knights in the third period. He jumped on a loose puck at the right faceoff dot and sniped his sixth goal and eighth point in seven games this season. Pirri has nine goals in nine games since joining Vegas last season. Fleury, who improved to 7-0-3 in his last 10 appearances dating to Dec. 9, got his 23rd win in his 37th start — both league-bests. Alex Tuch added an empty-netter in the final minute. The Golden Knights, who are 8-1-3 in their last 12 games, beat the Kings for the second time in four days after winning in Los Angeles on Saturday. □

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Twins sign Cruz for DH power, clubhouse leadership

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With an opening for a designated hitter and a need for more power in the lineup, the Minnesota Twins found quite a fit on the free agent market with a six-time All-Star in Nelson Cruz.

They'll be counting on his impact beyond the middle of the batting order. There's a clubhouse filled with still-developing players who could use his wisdom, too.

The Twins signed Cruz to a one-year, \$14.3 million contract that comes with a \$12 million club option for 2020, formalizing Wednesday their addition of a player whose 203 home runs over the previous five seasons are the most in the major leagues during that span.

"I don't think we view Nelson just as a DH," Twins general manager Thad Levine said. "He's clearly going to be occupying that spot in the lineup, but as we've intimated, and you've got to hear in his voice, what he brings to the table is so



In this Sept. 13, 2018, file photo, Seattle Mariners' Nelson Cruz watches his three-run home run in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

much more than that. So we did prioritize this type of offensive production. We did try to prioritize this type of quality of character and leadership."

Cruz, who will turn 39 on July 1, batted .256 with 37

homers, 97 RBIs and a .342 on-base percentage in 2018 for Seattle. He hit a career-high 40 homers in 2014 in a one-year stop in Baltimore, after an eight-season run with Texas. Over the last five years, Cruz has

played in an average of 153 games.

Cruz served a 50-game suspension in 2013 for violating the major league drug agreement in relation to the sport's investigation of the Biogenesis of America clinic. The Twins are still eager to rely on his production and mentorship in a youthful clubhouse.

"I know my body. I know what I need to do to stay healthy first, you know? And what I do on a daily basis to prepare myself to be successful on the field, that's the biggest difference," said Cruz, who added he would be "very proud" to play in the outfield, where Eddie Rosario and Max Kepler are set at the corner positions. He's only played there nine times over the previous two seasons.

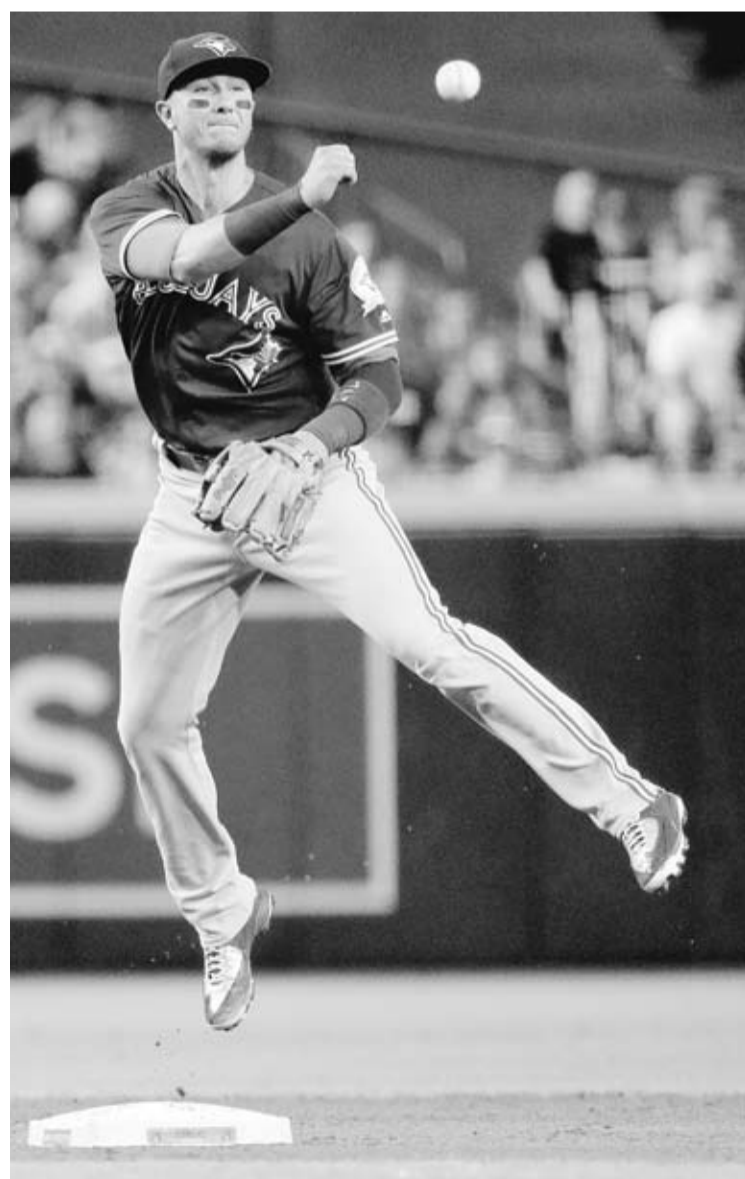
The Twins signed Logan Morrison last year for \$6.5 million to serve as the primary designated hitter, but coming off a career-high 38-homer season, he struggled badly and eventually had hip surgery that

shelved him in mid-August with a .186 batting average.

Morrison, who wound up playing more than expected at first base while Joe Mauer recovered from a concussion, took 35 turns as the DH. He took a \$1 million buyout and became a free agent. Mauer, who retired, had 33 starts. Robbie Grossman, who was not offered a contract and became a free agent, was the DH 36 times.

With 360 career home runs, Cruz is fourth on the active list behind Albert Pujols (633), Miguel Cabrera (465) and Edwin Encarnacion (380). He will earn \$14 million in 2019, and if the Twins were to decide to decline the \$12 million option for next year, they would owe him a \$300,000 buyout.

By signing second baseman Jonathan Schoop and claiming first baseman C.J. Cron off waivers, the Twins have added 88 homers to their lineup after finishing 23rd in the majors with 166 last season. □



AP source: Tulowitzki agrees to 1-year deal with Yankees

By **RONALD BLUM**

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees have obtained a low-cost infield replacement, agreeing to a one-year contract with shortstop Troy Tulowitzki for the major league minimum \$555,000, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the agreement, first reported by ESPN, is subject to a successful physical.

Tulowitzki idolized retired Yankees captain Derek Jeter and has worn No. 2 in his honor. A five-time All-Star who turned 34 in October, Tulowitzki has not played in the major leagues since July 2017 and was released by the Toronto Blue Jays last month. He was limited to 66 games in 2017 because of

a hamstring and right ankle injury. The ankle required surgery last spring and he missed the entire season.

Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius had Tommy John surgery on his right elbow on Oct. 17 and is not expected to return until summer. New York also has been talking with Manny Machado, one of the top available free agents. Tulowitzki could slot in at shortstop, allowing Gleyber Torres to remain at second baseman and Miguel Andujar to stay at third.

Tulowitzki was taken by Colorado with the seventh overall pick in the 2005 amateur draft, became a star with the Rockies and agreed after the 2010 season to a \$157.75 million, 10-year contract that added \$132 million over seven seasons. Colorado dealt him

in July 2015 to Toronto in a deal that brought shortstop Jose Reyes to the Rockies.

While Tulowitzki helped the Blue Jays reach that year's AL Championship Series, he slumped the next year and then was derailed by injuries.

Tulowitzki is owed \$20 million for next year, \$14 million for 2020 and a \$4 million buyout of a 2021 team option. Toronto would pay all but the big league minimum in the Yankees deal, which would be offset against his 2018 salary.

Toronto will be paying Tulowitzki for many years: \$5 million of his 2019 salary is deferred at 3 percent interest and is payable in 10 equal installments each Jan. 1 from 2025-34. In addition, the buyout is due in \$2 million installments on July 1 in 2021 and 2022. □



Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas, of Britain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, passes the Arc de Triomphe on July 29, 2018, during the twenty-first stage of the 116-kilometer (72.1-mile) Tour de France cycling race from Houilles to the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

Associated Press

Thomas, Froome target Tour de France in 2019

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Geraint Thomas and Chris Froome, the current and former Tour de France champions, are planning to compete in the 2019 edition of the race in what could be Team Sky's final bid for cycling's biggest prize.

Froome will not defend his Giro d'Italia title as targets a record-tying fifth win in the Tour, while Thomas is bidding for back-to-back victories.

Both British riders have said they want to deliver success on the road in order to help Team Sky secure new sponsorship, with its future uncertain following the decision of broadcaster Sky

to end its investment in the sport after 2019.

The 33-year-old Froome said it was a difficult decision not to defend his Giro title after becoming the first British winner of the race last May. "I'm getting to the point in my career now where I'm starting to think about what kind of legacy I want to leave behind," he said, "and if I am able to win the Tour de France for a fifth time and join that very elite group of bike riders — only four other people have ever done that — it would just be incredible."

Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault, Jacques Anquetil and Miguel Indurain are the other five-time winners. □

Penn State moves to trademark the Happy Valley nickname

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — It's sometimes called State College and sometimes University Park, but Penn State wants to ensure it holds the trademark when it's called Happy Valley.

The Centre Daily Times reported Wednesday the university asked the U.S. Patent and Trademark Of-

fice last month to trademark the term that refers to the school's setting in the mountains of central Pennsylvania. The application says it wants to use the term on clothing and headwear. The paper says that the trademark had been registered but that the holder didn't renew it. □



In this Nov. 5, 2018 file photo Borussia Dortmund's Christian Pulisic goes for a ball during a training session at Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, prior to the Champions League match between Atletico and Dortmund.

Associated Press

Pulisic to join Chelsea as most expensive American player

DORTMUND, Germany (AP) — Christian Pulisic became the most expensive American soccer player in history after completing a transfer to English club Chelsea from Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday.

Chelsea paid 64 million euros (\$73 million) for the 20-year-old United States winger, who will be loaned back to Dortmund for the rest of this season. The German club won't have to pay Chelsea for the loan. The fee is easily the biggest paid for an American player, surpassing the reported 20 million euros (\$22.5 million) spent by German team Wolfsburg for John Brooks in 2017.

"It was always Christian's big dream to play in the Premier League," Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc said. "That certainly has to do with his American origins, and so it wasn't possible for us to extend his contract."

The Hershey, Pennsylvania-native's contract with Dortmund was due to expire at the end of next season.

"It is a privilege to have signed for such a legendary club," Pulisic said of the London team that has won five Premier League titles since 2005. He thanked

Dortmund for "finding a solution that was win-win for everyone."

Pulisic had long been linked with a move to a Premier League club, while Dortmund's league rival Bayern Munich was also reportedly interested.

Despite the price tag, the signing could be somewhat of a coup for Chelsea if it helps the club establish a larger American fan base.

"He's one of the great young talents in the world," former U.S. defender Alexi Lalas wrote on Twitter. "He just happens to be American...which makes him even more valuable. All brands want to continue to mine the fertile U.S. market, having Pulisic doesn't hurt." It is the most high-profile move secured by an American outfield player, with goalkeepers Tim Howard having previously played for Manchester United and Brad Friedel for Liverpool.

Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia said the club has signed "one of Europe's most sought-after young players." "At just 20, we believe he has the potential to become an important Chelsea player for many years to come," she said.

Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri said he was unaware

the club was signing Pulisic until a day before it was announced.

"I was asked about him a month ago," said Sarri, speaking after Chelsea's 0-0 draw with Southampton late Wednesday, "and my opinion was positive."

Pulisic, who can play on either wing or behind the striker, has been overshadowed somewhat at Dortmund this season due to the emergence of English youngster Jadon Sancho. Sancho was signed from Manchester City for 8 million pounds (\$10 million) in the offseason of 2017 and has already scored six Bundesliga goals and set up nine more this season.

Pulisic has made only 11 league appearances (one goal, two assists) and only five of those were as a starter. In a message posted on his Twitter account, Pulisic urged Dortmund fans to "not doubt my passion, determination and my 110 percent commitment to the team right until the last ball is kicked this season."

Dortmund leads the German league by six points heading into the second half of the season and is through to the last 16 of the Champions League, where it will face Tottenham. □

'Tech addicts' seek solace in 12 steps and rehab

By **MARTHA IRVINE**

AP National Writer

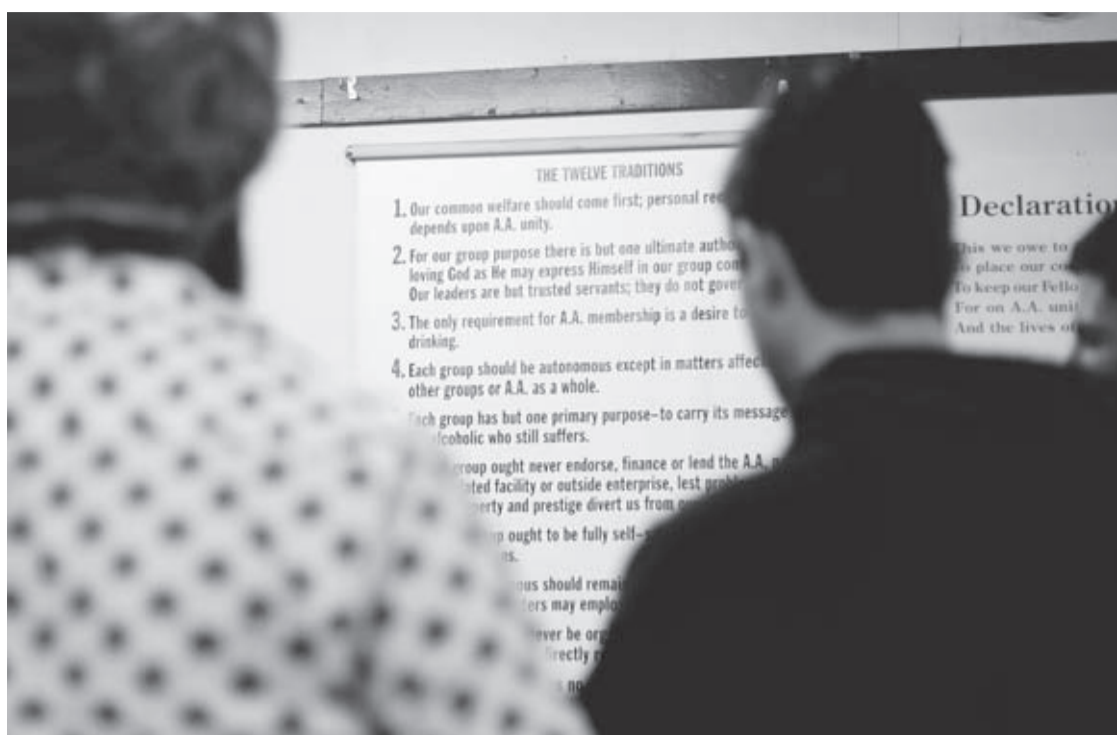
BELLEVUE, Wash. (AP) — We

like to say we're addicted to our phones or an app or some new show on a streaming video service.

But for some people, tech gets in the way of daily functioning and self-care. We're talking flunk-your-classes, can't-find-a-job, live-in-a-dark-hole kinds of problems, with depression, anxiety and sometimes suicidal thoughts part of the mix.

Suburban Seattle, a major tech center, has become a hub for help for so-called "tech addicts," with residential rehab, psychologists who specialize in such treatment and 12-step meetings.

"The drugs of old are now repackaged. We have a new foe," Cosette Rae says of the barrage of tech. A former developer in the tech world, she heads a Seattle area rehab center called reSTART Life, one of the few residential pro-



In this Dec. 8, 2018, photo, young men gather to talk after a 12-step meeting for Internet & Tech Addiction Anonymous in Bellevue, Wash.

Associated Press

grams in the nation specializing in tech addiction.

Use of that word — addiction — when it comes to devices, online content and the like is still debated in the mental health world. But many practitioners agree that tech use is increasingly intertwined with the problems of those seeking help.

An American Academy of Pediatrics review of worldwide research found that excessive use of video games alone is a serious problem for as many as 9 percent of young people. This summer, the World Health Organization also added "gaming disorder" to its list of afflictions. A simi-

lar diagnosis is being considered in the United States. It can be a taboo subject in an industry that frequently faces criticism for using "persuasive design," intentionally harnessing psychological concepts to make tech all the more enticing. One 27-year-old man, found through a 12-step program for tech addicts, works in the very industry that peddles the games, videos and other online content that has long been his vice. He does cloud maintenance for a suburban Seattle tech company and constantly finds himself fending off temptation.

"I'm like an alcoholic working at a bar," he laments.

He spoke on the condition that he not be identified, fearing he might harm his career in an industry he's long loved.

As a toddler, he sat on his dad's lap in their Seattle area home as they played simple video games on a Mac Classic II computer. By early elementary school, he got his first Super Nintendo system and spent hours playing Yoshi's Story, a game where the main character searched for "lucky fruit."

As he grew, so did one of the world's major tech hubs. Led by Microsoft, it rose from the nondescript suburban landscape and farm fields here, just a short drive from the home he still shares with his mom, who split from her husband when their only child was 11.

As a teen, he took an interest in music and acting but recalls how playing games increasingly became a way to escape life. "I go online instead of dealing with my feelings," he says.

He'd been seeing a therapist for depression and severe social anxiety. But attending college out of state allowed more freedom and less structure, so he spent even more time online. His grades plummeted, forcing him to change majors, from engineering to business.

After graduating in 2016

and moving home, he'd go to a nearby restaurant or the library to use the Wi-Fi, claiming he was looking for a job but having no luck.

Instead, he was spending hours on Reddit, an online forum where people share news and comments, or viewing YouTube videos. Sometimes, he watched online porn.

Others who attend a 12-step meeting of the Internet & Tech Addiction Anonymous know the struggle.

"I had to be convinced that this was a 'thing,'" says Walker, a 19-year-old from Washington whose parents insisted he get help after video gaming trashed his first semester of college. He agreed to speak only if identified by first name, as required by the 12-step tenets.

Help is found at facilities like reSTART. Clients "detox" from tech at a secluded ranch and move on to a group home.

They commit to eating well and regular sleep and exercise. They find jobs, and many eventually return to college. They also make "bottom line" promises to give up video games or any other problem content, as well as drugs and alcohol, if those are issues. They use monitored smartphones with limited function — calls, texts and emails and access to maps.

The young tech worker didn't go to reSTART. But he, too, has apps on his phone that send reports about what he's viewing to his 12-step sponsor, a fellow tech addict named Charlie, a 30-year-old reSTART graduate.

At home, the young man also persuaded his mom to get rid of Wi-Fi to lessen the temptation.

He still relapses every couple months, often when he's tired or upset or very bored. He tells himself that his problem isn't as bad as other tech addicts.

"Then," the young man says, "I discover very quickly that I am actually an addict, and I do need to do this."

Having Charlie to lean on helps. "He's a role model," he says. □



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Expect 2019 to be quiet in Congress for small business

By **JOYCE M. ROSENBERG**
NEW YORK (AP) — Small business issues often win bipartisan support on Capitol Hill, but given the divisions in the incoming 116th Congress, advocates for companies have low expectations.

Even after lawmakers deal with the partial government shutdown, a Democratic House, a Republican Senate and ongoing investigations of the Trump White House and campaign are expected to be obstacles to much small business-related work getting done.

"I think 2019 is going to be a quiet year with maybe small reforms on tax things, maybe some trade legislation getting through," said Karen Kerrigan, president of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council.

Company owners may see more movement in their states, said John Arensmeyer, CEO of Small Business Majority, who called governors "more aggressive than anyone" on helping small business.

A look at issues that small business advocates expect to be on government agendas in 2019:

HEALTH CARE

Lawmakers were expected to introduce health care bills even before the federal court ruling last month that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional. Since that ruling, which is expected to be appealed and could reach the Supreme Court,

House Democrats have said they plan to intervene in the defense of the law.

Democrats expect to introduce bills to limit the use of low-cost short-term health plans that have limited coverage and bolster the ACA's coverage of people with pre-existing conditions. Republican opposition to Democratic efforts is likely, although many GOP lawmakers voiced support for pre-existing condition coverage during their election campaigns.

Small business groups want Congress to pass legislation limiting increases in health care costs — but they're not optimistic.

"To do that would be controversial," said Todd McCracken, president of the National Small Business Association.

Legislation expanding the availability of association health plans, or AHPs, stalled in the 115th Congress, and could be reintroduced. These plans allow individuals like sole proprietors to band together and buy insurance. They're illegal under the ACA but the Trump administration last year issued rules making it possible for some owners to join AHPs. However, some states have laws making it difficult or impossible for their residents to join the plans, and more states might enact their own legislation.

Changes in health care law are most likely to come



In this June 21, 2018 file photo, a job applicant looks at job listings for the Riverside Hotel at a job fair hosted by Job News South Florida, in Sunrise, Fla.

Associated Press

from the states, Arensmeyer said.

TAXES

Legislation to simplify tax code provisions that affect small businesses languished in the last Congress and is expected to be reintroduced. Among other things, the Small Business Owners' Tax Simplification Act would make due dates for estimated tax payments the last date of calendar year quarters. It would also make it easier for owners to deduct their own health care premiums.

"They're common sense reforms that are supported by both sides of the aisle," Kerrigan says.

Some business groups will seek further tax code simplification because of the administrative burden taxes place on owners. But hopes aren't high.

"Any material simplification is probably not going to happen with the divided Congress," said Keith Hall, president of the National Association for the Self-Employed.

TRADE

Congress is expected to consider the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement early in 2019. The trade deal, intended to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, is opposed by Democrats who want stronger protections for U.S. workers from low-wage Mexican competition. Many U.S. small manufacturers export to Mexico and Canada and want the deal ratified.

"It's bad for business, particularly for small businesses, if the agreement just went away," McCracken said.

EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

The Labor Department is expected to issue its new regulations on overtime — which employees must be given overtime, and which are exempt. The Trump administration is rewriting rules written under the Obama administration and then blocked by a federal judge; those rules would have doubled the pay threshold at which workers would be exempt from overtime, to \$47,476 from \$23,660. An estimated 4.2 million people would have been able to begin earning OT under the rules.

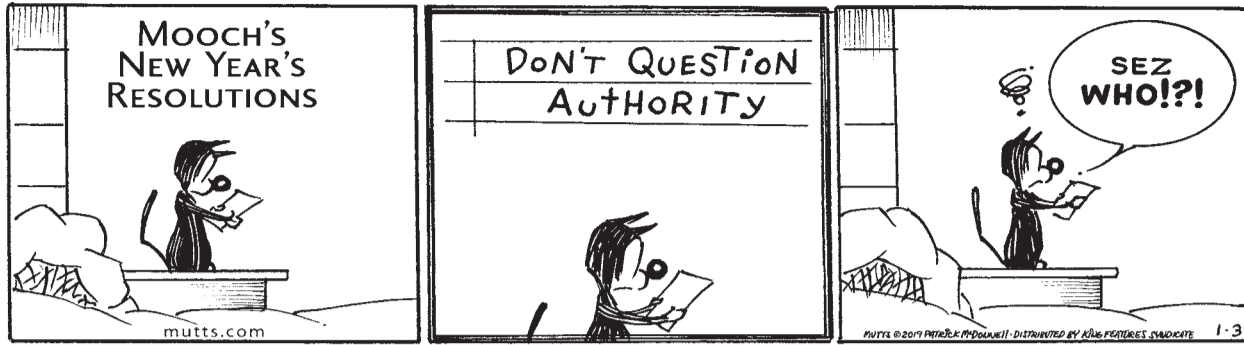
Kerrigan expects the rules to be issued early in the year, and predicted the threshold would be a compromise between the Obama administration version and no increase.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Legislation to repair the nation's roadways and bridges is expected in the new Congress although the Trump administration \$1.5 billion proposal announced last February foundered. McCracken says the parties remain too far apart for a bill to pass — unless the economy provides some motivation for a compromise.

"Infrastructure is one of those things that can generate a lot of activity and bolster the economy," he says. Many companies that do the actual repairing of roads and bridges are small businesses like general contractors. □

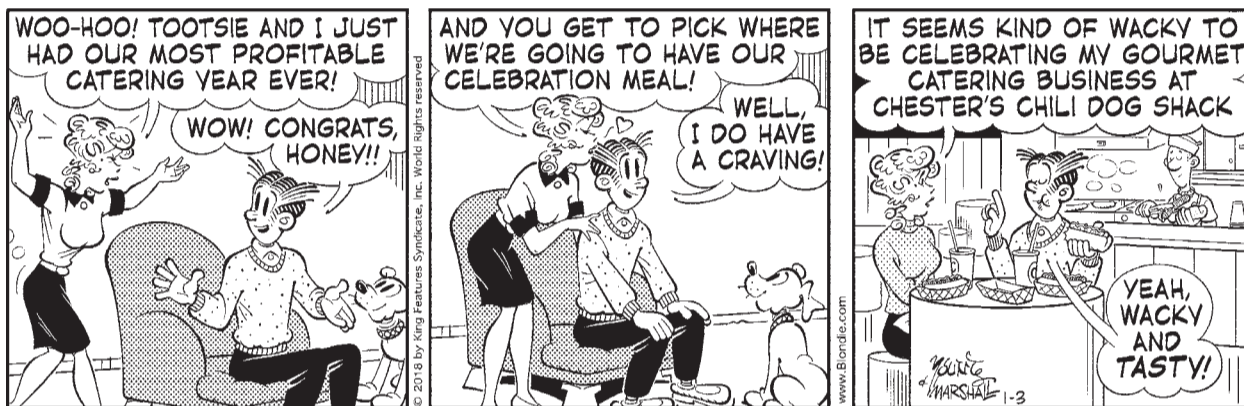
Mutts



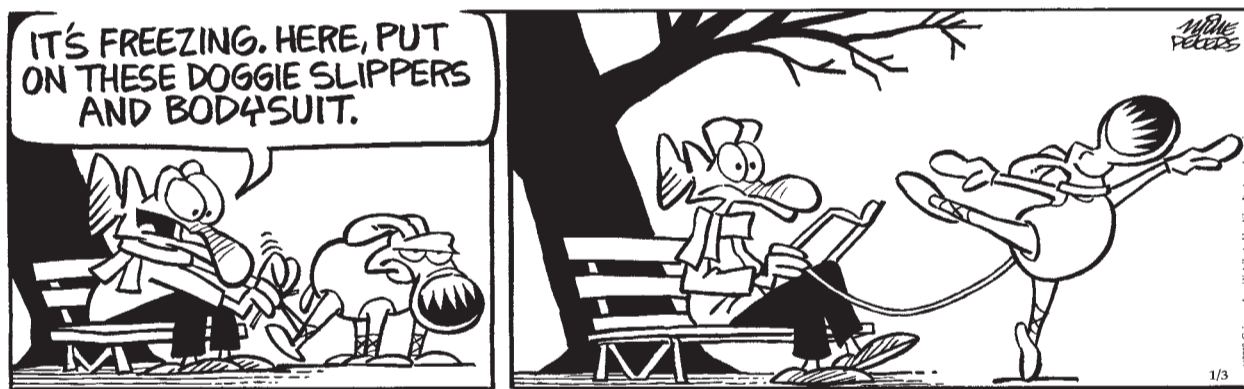
6 Chix



Blondie



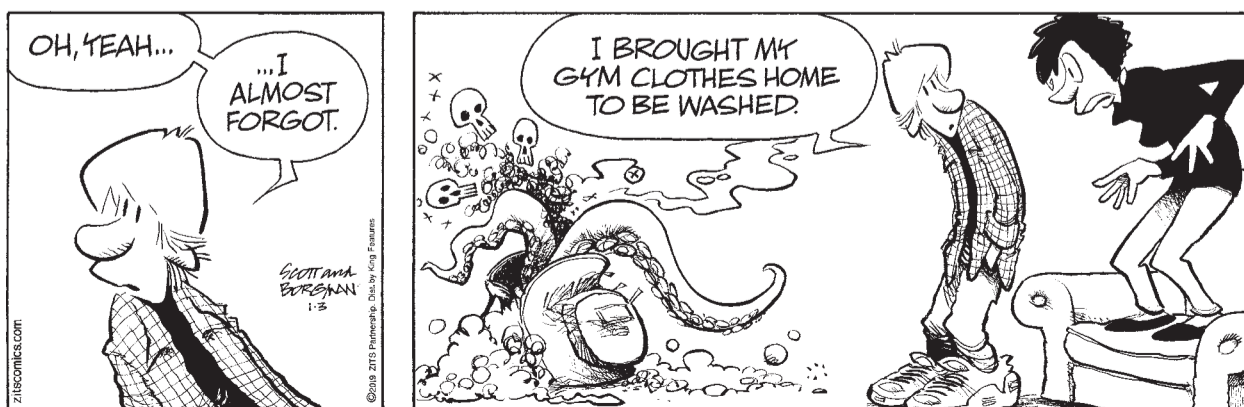
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2			5			
			1	2				
3	4		5		8		6	
	7					1		
		6		3	9			
	3					8		
7	1		8		3		4	
		2		6				
		5			7			

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

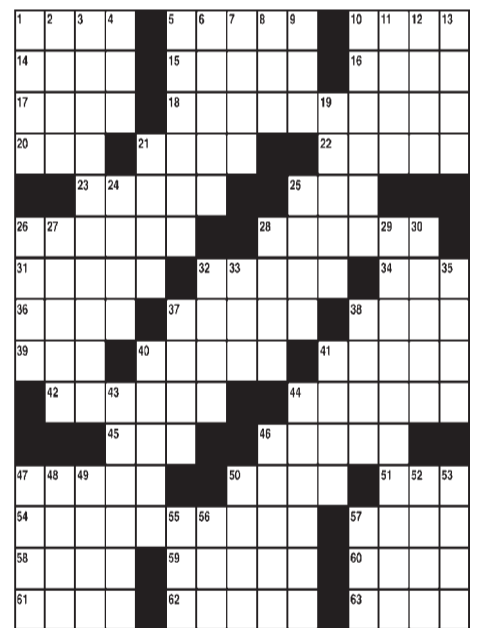
9	7	6	3	1	4	2	5	8
3	5	4	8	6	2	7	9	1
1	8	2	5	9	7	3	6	4
4	1	5	2	8	3	6	7	9
7	9	8	4	5	6	1	2	3
2	6	3	9	7	1	8	4	5
8	2	9	6	3	5	4	1	7
5	4	7	1	2	8	9	3	6
6	3	1	7	4	9	5	8	2

ACROSS

- 1 Make a tiny cut
- 5 Leftover fragment
- 10 Snatch
- 14 Solitary
- 15 ___ out; eliminate gradually
- 16 Acting part
- 17 A single time
- 18 Mariner's beacon
- 20 Startling word
- 21 Has a bug
- 22 Thespian
- 23 ___ cuisine; gourmet food
- 25 Hurry
- 26 Tiny particles
- 28 Terrible
- 31 Merchandise
- 32 Contemptible
- 34 "Swing __, Sweet Chariot"
- 36 Eras
- 37 Leigh or Jackson
- 38 Cookie Monster's color
- 39 Guys
- 40 Seymour & Pauley
- 41 Hovel or mansion
- 42 Smacked
- 44 Meandered
- 45 Forest animal
- 46 Isle of __; Italian resort
- 47 Social blunder
- 50 Marathon
- 51 Org. for Bulls and Bucks
- 54 Draw pictures for a book
- 57 James __ Jones
- 58 Apartment
- 59 Boring tool
- 60 Part of a staircase
- 61 Little child
- 62 Looks through a keyhole
- 63 Sutures

DOWN

- 1 Messy person
- 2 Advice to Nanette
- 3 Speaking hysterically
- 4 Baseball's ___ Wee Reese
- 5 Divides
- 6 South American nation
- 7 Cleaning cloths
- 8 Hardwood tree
- 9 Flea collar wearer
- 10 Market owner
- 11 Disastrous defeat
- 12 In addition
- 13 Lager
- 19 ___ as an ape
- 21 Black-and-white birds
- 24 King toppers
- 25 Emcee
- 26 Did the breaststroke
- 27 Book leaves
- 28 Colors
- 29 Lighten
- 30 Throw water on
- 32 Slender
- 33 Afternoon hour
- 35 Garden intruder
- 37 Beanstalk climber
- 38 Wild hog
- 40 Novelist Verne



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/3/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	A	A	G	N	E	W	C	L	A	P
B	O	B	S	S	L	A	T	E	H	O	P
C	A	L	M	P	E	T	A	L	A	G	E
R	E	A	D	I	N	E	S	S	N	E	S
S	I	C	S	H	O	E					
R	A	S	H	E	S	F	A	M	I	L	I
A	S	H	E	S	T	R	I	A	L	D	D
B	I	A	S	L	E	A	R	N	F	L	O
B	A	D	P	A	L	M	S	C	L	E	R
I	N	E	D	I	B	L	E	S	H	O	R
A	P	R									
A	D	A	M	A	S	C	E	N	D	I	N
R	A	J	A	D	O	O	R	S	S	O	A
C	R	A	G	O	L	I	V	E	T	A	M
H	E	R	E	R	O	L	E	S	H	E	N

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1/3/19

- 41 Remain optimistic
- 43 Prove an argument wrong
- 44 Earnhardt & Petty
- 46 Provide food for a party
- 47 Present
- 48 Friendly nation
- 49 Criticism
- 50 Hit the ceiling
- 52 Make tea
- 53 European range
- 55 Touch lightly
- 56 Actress McClanahan
- 57 19th letter

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3BEDROM \$26k
*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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\$11,000
Pool/Ocean View Saturday
Check in

Dutch Village

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18 Weeks remain \$7000

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 52 Room #502
11 Weeks remain \$10,000
Studio WK # 50 Room # 1404
Penthouse 35 weeks remain
\$6500

Divi Village

1 BR WK # 52 Room# 3308
25 Weeks remain \$12,000
1 BR WK# 1 Room# 5501
24 weeks remain \$ 11,000

Divi Vilage

Studio WK# 52 Room#6304
20 Weeks remain \$ 9000
Studio WK # 1 Room# 8201
23 Weeks remain \$8000

Divi Links Golf

Studio Week # 2 Room # 4205
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24 weeks remain \$8500

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32 weeks remain \$ 10,000 Each

Divi Links Golf

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35 weeks remain \$ 13,000 Each
2 BR WK # 3 Room #
4215/4216
28 weeks remain \$25,000

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\$ 45 ,000
2 BR WK# 52 Ocean View \$ 49
,000
2 BR WK #51 Garden View
\$40,000
2 BR WK# 52 Garden View
\$45,000

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2 BR Ocean View \$ 18,000
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2 BR Ocean Front \$26,000
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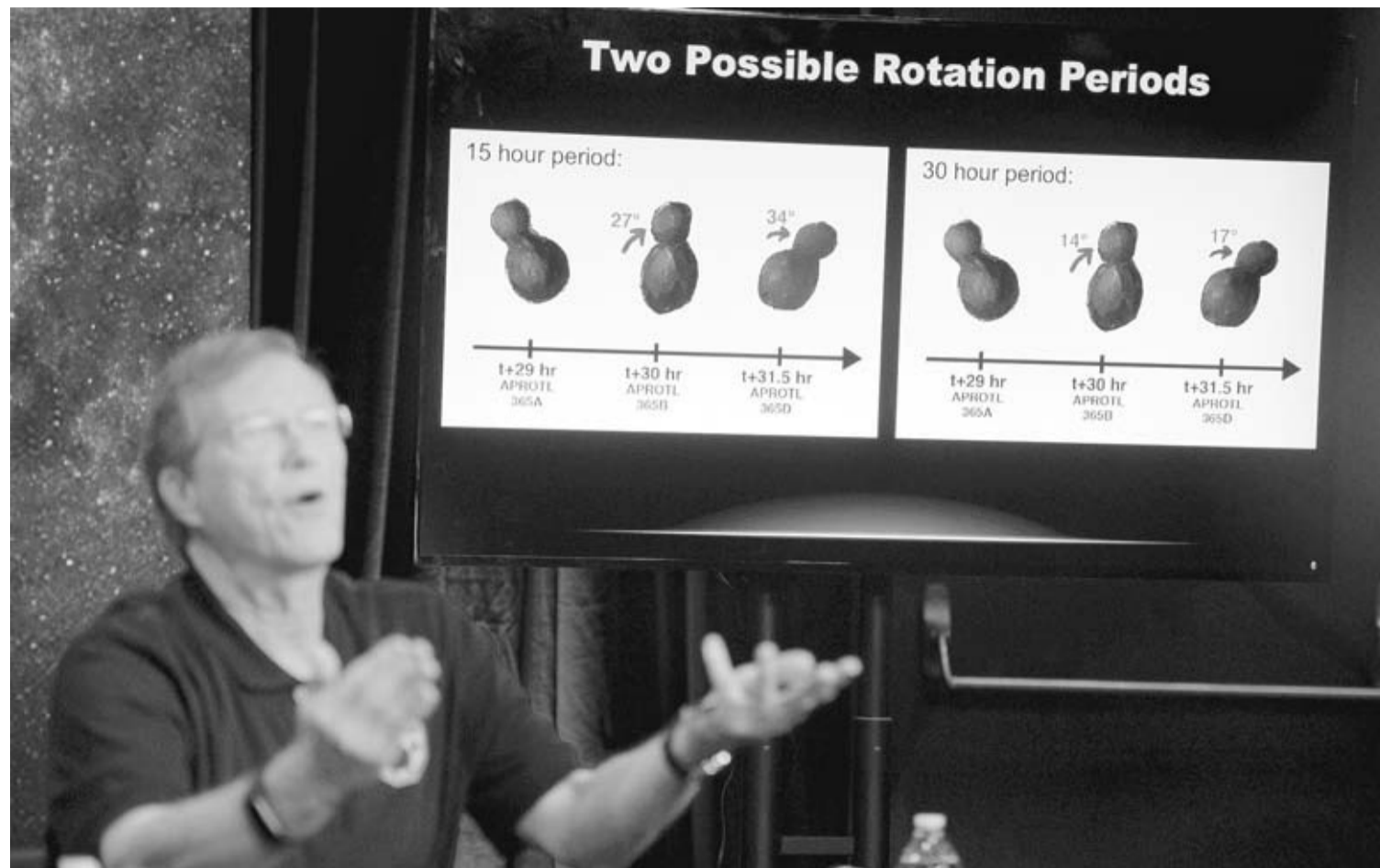
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Spacecraft opens new year with flyby on solar system's edge



New Horizons project scientist Hal Weaver, of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, speaks about new data received from the New Horizons spacecraft during a press conference after the team received confirmation from the spacecraft that it has completed a flyby of Ultima Thule, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, at the APL in Laurel, Md.

Associated Press

By MARCIA DUNN
LAUREL, Md. (AP) — NASA's New Horizons spacecraft pulled off the most distant exploration of another world Tuesday, skimming past a tiny, icy object 4 billion miles from Earth that looks to be shaped like a bowling pin. Flight controllers in Maryland declared success 10 hours after the high-risk, middle-of-the-night encounter at the mysterious body known as Ultima Thule on the frozen fringes of our solar system, an astounding 1 billion miles (1.6 billion kilometers) beyond Pluto. "I don't know about all of you, but I'm really liking this 2019 thing so far," lead scientist Alan Stern of Southwest Research Institute said to applause. "I'm here to tell you that last night,

overnight, the United States spacecraft New Horizons conducted the farthest exploration in the history of humankind, and did so spectacularly." The close approach came a half-hour into the new year, and 3 ½ years after New Horizons' unprecedented swing past Pluto. For Ultima Thule — which wasn't even known when New Horizons departed Earth in 2006 — the endeavor was more difficult. The spacecraft zoomed within 2,200 miles (3,500 kilometers) of it, more than three times closer than the Pluto flyby. Operating on autopilot, New Horizons was out of radio contact with controllers at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory from late Monday af-

ternoon until late Tuesday morning. Scientists wanted the spacecraft staring down Ultima Thule and collecting data, not turning toward Earth to phone home. Mission operations manager Alice Bowman said she was more nervous this time than she was with Pluto in 2015 because of the challenges and distance, so vast that messages take more than six hours, one way, to cross the 4 billion miles (6.4 billion kilometers). When a solid radio link finally was acquired and team members reported that their spacecraft systems were green, or good, she declared with relief: "We have a healthy spacecraft." Later, she added to more applause: "We did it again." Cheers erupted in the control center and in a nearby auditorium, where hundreds more — still weary from the double countdowns on New Year's Eve — gathered to await word. Scientists and other team members embraced and shared high-fives, while the spillover auditorium crowd gave a standing ovation. Stern, Bowman and other

key players soon joined their friends in the auditorium, where the celebration continued and a news conference took place. The speakers took delight in showing off the latest picture of Ultima Thule, taken just several hundred-thousand miles (1 million kilometers) before the 12:33 a.m. close approach. "Ultima Thule is finally revealing its secrets to us," said project scientist Hal Weaver of Johns Hopkins. Based on the early, rudimentary images, Ultima Thule is highly elongated — about 20 miles by 10 miles (32 kilometers by 16 kilometers). It's also spinning end over end, although scientists don't yet know how fast. As for its shape, scientists say there are two possibilities. Ultima Thule is either one object with two connected lobes, sort of like a spinning bowling pin or peanut still in the shell, or two objects orbiting surprisingly close to one another. A single body is more likely, they noted. An answer should be forthcoming Wednesday, once better, closer pictures arrive.

By week's end, "Ultima Thule is going to be a completely different world, compared to what we're seeing now," Weaver noted. Still, the best color close-ups won't be available until February. Those images should reveal whether Ultima Thule has any rings or moons, or craters on its dark, reddish surface. Altogether, it will take nearly two years for all of New Horizons' data to reach Earth. The observations should help scientists ascertain how deep-freeze objects like Ultima Thule formed, along with the rest of the solar system, 4.5 billion years ago. As a preserved relic from that original time, Ultima Thule also promises to shed light on the so-called Kuiper Belt, or Twilight Zone, in which hundreds of thousands of objects reside well beyond Neptune. "This mission's always been about delayed gratification," Stern reminded reporters. He noted it took 12 years to sell the project, five years to build it and nine years to reach the first target, Pluto. Its mission now totaling \$800 million, the baby grand piano-sized New Horizons will keep hurtling toward the edge of the solar system, observing Kuiper Belt Objects, or KBOs, from afar, and taking cosmic particle measurements. Although NASA's Voyagers crossed the Kuiper Belt on their way to true interstellar space, their 1970s-era instruments were not nearly as sophisticated as those on New Horizons, Weaver noted, and the twin spacecraft did not pass near any objects known at the time. The New Horizons team is already pushing for another flyby in the 2020s, while the nuclear power and other spacecraft systems are still good. Bowman takes comfort and pleasure in knowing that long after New Horizons stops working, it "will keep going on and on." "There's a bit of all of us on that spacecraft," she said, "and it will continue after we're long gone here on Earth." □

Times Square crowd braves rain to bid wet welcome to 2019

By REBECCA GIBIAN
STEPHEN R. GROVES
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rain drops fell along with confetti as revelers rang in 2019 in New York's Times Square, capping a soggy New Year's Eve celebration that included singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha's stirring rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine" just before midnight.

Crews used squeegees to try to remove water from the stages, but New Kids On The Block still splashed up puddles late Monday while performing their hit "Step by Step" on a giant set of steps.

At midnight, fireworks erupted over Times Square, couples kissed, families hugged and "Auld Lang Syne" played over loud speakers.

"It was so awesome, it's a once in a lifetime experi-

ence," said Colleen Giambrone, 55, of New Jersey. "Totally worth it, rain and all. It's incredible."

The Times Square party is always a marathon, with often cold temperatures, stringent security rules, hours-long waits and a lack of public toilets. But New Yorker Brie Dunn, 22, said being there "was like a true state of pure bliss and unity and love."

"It felt like there was no hate in the world," said Dunn. "That's what I hope for in 2019 and all the years to come."

Spectator areas in and around Times Square started filling up late Monday morning.

As always, the celebration took place under tight security, with partygoers searched at checkpoints and herded into pens ringed by metal barricades. Thousands of police officers



Joey Flores, of California, uses his cellphone as confetti falls during a New Year's celebration in New York's Times Square, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

patrolled with the help of bomb-sniffing dogs, 1,225 security cameras and 235 "blocker vehicles" used to stop potential vehicle attacks. The event went off safely, with no major disruptions, though the rain forced police to cancel plans to deploy a drone to help monitor the crowd.

Some people in the crowd knelt on the soaked ground, with ponchos over their heads as puddles formed and they waited for performers, including Christina Aguilera, Snoop Dogg, Dan + Shay and Bastille.

Veterans of the celebration said the rain wasn't all that bad, considering last

year was one of the coldest on record at 10 degrees Fahrenheit (-12 Celsius). This year, the temperature was about 47 degrees Fahrenheit (8 degrees Celsius) as midnight struck.

"We're troopers. We got this," said Nyia Williamson, 41, a self-described New Kids On The Block fan who was at the party for the 11th time.

The biggest cheers early on were for event workers handing out foam hats and blue gloves. For the unprepared, staying dry meant ponying up. Vendors charged up to \$10 for ponchos that ordinarily sell for \$2.

As the soggy wait for midnight dragged on, some people in the crowd grew grim.

"It was a massive mistake," Peter Walsh, 24, said of his decision to attend, after hours spent in the gloom. □

With Dr. Dre behind him, Anderson .Paak is feeling epic

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Getting Dr. Dre to produce his entire album had Anderson .Paak feeling like "the prodigal son," as he put it, since it's rare that you'll find Dre overseeing an entire music project these days.

"To see him so inspired and genuinely having fun with a project is really dope, because I don't feel like he's been this involved with a project probably since Eminem's first stuff," said Paak, now signed to Dre's Aftermath Entertainment.

That project is "Oxnard," named after Paak's California hometown. Released last month, it's the third volume in his "beach series," following 2014's "Venice" and 2016's Grammy-nominated "Malibu."

Paak, an eclectic musician who blends funk, hip-hop and R&B, was featured on six songs from Dre's latest album, 2016's "Compton." In recent years, Dre has become more famous for pushing the Beats by Dre brand though his resume

includes producing hits for Eminem, 50 Cent, Tupac, Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, and Eve, as well as launching his own multi-platinum albums.

"I remember when we wrapped up (Dre) was like, 'Thank you, man. I know this is helping you, but it's also helping me a lot,'" Paak said.

"I feel like it gave him a spark again."

Dre isn't the only famous name to appear on "Oxnard," Kendrick Lamar, Snoop Dogg, J. Cole, Q-Tip and Pusha T also are on the album.

"I feel like there a lot of features, but it didn't feel like a lot of features. It was almost like, 'Oh, shoot — surprise,'" said Paak, adding that he was "humbled to be able to be in the same room with some of these people."

Paak, a church-grown percussionist, describes his latest work as "fun," but "same man, new car." The vibe on "Oxnard" is different compared to "Malibu," a shift that was purposeful.

"We're just never trying to do the same thing twice



In this Dec. 3, 2018, photo Anderson .Paak poses for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

— it's not interesting for us. We just want to keep growing as artists," said Paak. "We did a lot of rapping on this album. It was a lot of fun songs, a lot of songs to dance to, a lot of big, hard-hitting production."

The musician's unique sound has been spread-

ing throughout the industry, and he's well aware of it: "I'm looking at some of these dudes like, 'Mo-fo, that sounds like me! What the hell?'"

He said though he's "flattered," he hopes it creates a resurgence of musician-ship in rap.

"I would love to open up a lane for more musician-rappers in hip-hop, more people playing an instrument and performing in hip-hop, which is something you really don't see too often," he said.

Paak, 32, will get to show off what he can do onstage when he launches his "Andy's Beach Club World Tour" next year.

It kicks off Feb. 11 in San Francisco — one day after the Grammy Awards, where Paak's song "Bubblin'" is nominated for best rap performance.

Winning a Grammy is one of Paak's goals, among other things.

"We cracked (the) Billboard (chart) this time around, and I never really knew what that was like, so it'd be nice to stay within, you know, keep cracking that, getting higher and higher up. Snatch some awards, some Grammys. I would like to continue to build a top-notch show. I want to be able to be one of those bands, like legacy bands, that can tour forever," he said. □

Old favorites, outdated attitudes: Can entertainment expire?

By TED ANTHONY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The 1940 movie "The Philadelphia Story" opens with a case of domestic assault played for laughs — Cary Grant shoving Katharine Hepburn to the ground by her face while a jaunty musical score plays. Eight decades later, the movie is clearly two things: uneasy fare for a post-#metoo culture — and an enduring American classic. And it's far from the only example of such things. They exist throughout society's pop-culture canon, from movies to TV to music and beyond: pieces of work that have withstood time's passage but that contain actions, words and depictions about race, gender and sexual orientation that we now find questionable at best. Whether it's blackface minstrel routines from Bing Crosby's "Holiday Inn," Apu's accent in "The Simpsons," bullying scenes in "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," the arguably rapey coercion of "Baby, It's Cold Out-



In this March 15, 2015, file photo, an Apu cutout is displayed at a Simpsons Kwik-E-Mart Truck in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

side" and "Sixteen Candles" or the simplistically clunky gender interactions of "Mr. Mom," Americans have amassed a catalog of entertainment across the decades that now raises a series of contentious but never-more-relevant questions: What, exactly, do we do

with this stuff today? Do we simply discard it? Give it a free pass as the product of a less-enlightened age? Or is there some way to both acknowledge its value yet still view it with a more critical eye? "How are we meant to feel about art that we both love and oppose?" Molly Ringwald, who played the young protagonist in "Sixteen Candles," wrote this past April in *The New Yorker*, 34 years later. As the decades passed, she grew more uncomfortable with some of the material that made her one of the 1980s' biggest young stars. Entertainment is a by-product of its era. And the delicate question of representation pervades some of our culture's most beloved work, from Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" on down. It is the wonderful and the problematic, often presented side by side. So if we're watching "I Love Lucy," do we consider how belittling Ricky (and most everyone else) is to her? Or do we take away the fact that no matter what, she is never contained? If we're listening to the Beatles, what do we make today of John Lennon's 1965 song that began with the lyrics, "I'd rather see you dead, little girl, than to be with another man"? If we put "Gone with the

Wind" in front of our kids, what do we say when Mammy (Hattie McDaniel) acts like a happy slave who adores her masters? And for the Gen-Xers among us: What of Hughes, who captured teenage life's authenticity but also sent some fundamentally confusing and problematic sexual messages to adolescents? "If you could erase all the scenes that are offensive to us today, even if you could, would that be a good idea? I don't really think so," says M. Alison Kibler, who teaches American studies at Franklin & Marshall College and researches how groups struggle for fair representation in entertainment. "I would step back from any kind of one-dimensional read of movies and performances from the past," she says. The "Charlie Chan" movies of the 1930s and 1940s seem today to brim with racial problems: non-Asians portraying Asians, fortune-cookie sayings spouted in precious accents and some broadly played African-American representations too. Yet according to Yunte Huang, who traced the character's history, many Asians welcomed the films at the time because they represented something

coveted: a respected Asian protagonist who outwitted every white person on the screen. "There's a history to everything. And we need to know history — including those ugly representations and everything," Huang says. Until the last couple decades, older fare resurfaced only sporadically. But the dawn of the digital era and the rapid rise of streaming culture means that now, anything can be accessed by pretty much anyone on any screen. That in turn means that a dizzying library of our cultural past, warts and all, is available at the press of a button. Consider Apu, the South Asian convenience-store owner long voiced by Hank Azaria in "The Simpsons" — an unusual case because the show has spanned more than two generations of evolving attitudes. Last year, comedian Hari Kondabolu released a film, "The Problem With Apu," documenting stereotypes he saw with the character and its effect on entertainers of South Asian descent. The response included hints that Apu might fade from the cast of thousands that populate the Simpsons' hometown of Springfield. That doesn't sit right with Shilpa Davé, author of "Indian Accents: Brown Voice and Racial Performance in American Television and Film." Apu, after all, is also a beloved character. Isn't there another solution? "The easy thing is to point a finger and say, 'Oh, that's terrible.' But I think we have to say, what are the alternatives? How do we want to progress now that we have more information and a higher consciousness?" Davé says. Tim Cogshell, a critic for FilmWeek on KPCC-FM, the NPR affiliate in Pasadena, California, thinks a lot about how yesterday's attitudes should be considered in today's environment. Part of his answer comes down to intent. "Sometimes you have to peel the onion. □"

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Renaissance master: Tintoretto's 500th spans 2 continents

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

VENICE, Italy (AP) — A Venetian cloth dyer's son, Tintoretto spent his entire career in Venice, becoming widely considered the last great painter of the Renaissance.

The lagoon city's churches and palazzi essentially serve as a permanent retrospective of this native son's formidable talents in using dramatic color, bold brushstrokes and daringly innovative perspective on often-enormous canvasses. Still, curators here have encountered challenges when mounting tributes this year to mark the 500th anniversary of his birth.

Some of Tintoretto's paintings couldn't be included in the main exhibition, hosted at the landmark Palazzo Ducale (Doges' Palace), because they couldn't fit through its 16th-century stone doorways.

And several Venetian churches, where the painter did much of his best work, balked at loaning their masterpieces. Not surprisingly, they are eager for visitors making the Tintoretto pilgrimage to visit their venues and not just the stellar show, which, since opening in September, has drawn more than 100,000



In this Dec. 3, 2018 photo, a visitor to an exhibition of Tintoretto works looks at his "Presentation of Jesus in the Temple" at the Ducal Palace in Venice.

visitors. After it closes here on Jan. 6, the exhibition travels to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. for a four-month run starting March 10. That will be the first-ever Tintoretto retrospective outside of Europe. When Venice last hosted a Tintoretto retrospective, in 1937, church paintings were cut out of their frames, rolled up and

carted off to the exhibition. That method would be met with horror by today's art world, especially since nearly a score of Tintoretto paintings were recently restored, thanks to the Save Venice organization.

"The churches generally felt, and we understood, it didn't make sense to move his masterpieces across the city," said Robert Echols, a

Boston-based art historian who is one of the curators. Some of those church works will go to the U.S. exhibition, however.

Some of Tintoretto's greatest works can never travel, of course, and are being celebrated here.

In the Chapter House in the Scuola di San Rocco, admirers can lay on their backs to see Tintoretto's

work, which has been likened to the monumental achievement of Michelangelo in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. Thanks to new lighting and strategically placed mirrors, the Chapter House last month had its own renaissance of sorts. Now visitors can see details in what before had seemed like a gloomy, cavernous room.

Echols and co-curator Frederick Ilchman, chair of European art at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, devoted much of their art historian careers to weeding out paintings that had been dubiously attributed to Tintoretto, whittling down what had been a list of 468 works to just over 300 paintings of his authorship.

"Tintoretto, to some extent, is a painter who was a victim of his own success," Echols said.

Tintoretto, a pseudonym of Jacopo Robusti, obtained so many commissions, particularly in his later years, that he farmed out some work, notably to his son, Domenico. While his genius was acknowledged in his own day, some works done by imitators or his workshop had been incorrectly attributed to Tintoretto in successive centuries. □

Associated Press

Judge denies Kevin Spacey's request to skip court appearance

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Former "House of Cards" star Kevin Spacey must appear in a Massachusetts court on accusations that he groped a young man in 2016, a judge ruled on Monday.

The 59-year-old Oscar-winning actor had argued he should be excused from attending his Jan. 7 arraignment at the Nantucket District Court because his presence would "amplify the negative publicity already generated in connection with this case." But Judge Thomas Barrett denied Spacey's request.

Spacey has said he will plead not guilty to felony indecent assault and battery.

The allegations were first brought in November

2017, when former Boston TV anchor Heather Unruh told reporters that Spacey groped her teenage son during a chance encounter in the crowded bar of a Nantucket restaurant.

An attorney for Spacey, Juliane Balliro, had argued that Spacey's presence at his arraignment would only "heighten prejudicial media interest in the case" and increase the risk of contaminating the jury pool.

Emails seeking comment on the judge's ruling were sent to Spacey's attorneys and the district attorney's office handling the case.

Neither Spacey nor his lawyers have addressed the allegation publicly, but the actor released a video last week in the voice of Frank Underwood, his character

on Netflix's "House of Cards" in which he said, "I'm certainly not going to pay the price for the thing I didn't do."

It was unclear whether he was addressing the criminal charge.

Spacey's attorneys have also questioned the evidence against him.

Los Angeles-based attorney Alan Jackson noted during a hearing that Unruh's son did not report the allegations to police right way, lied about his age saying he was 23, and said he was so intoxicated he may have blacked out shortly after Spacey allegedly groped him, according to an audio recording of the hearing obtained by The Boston Globe.

Unruh told reporters that



In this May 24, 2017 file photo, Kevin Spacey participates in the speaker series in New York.

Associated Press

her son didn't report the assault at the time because he was embarrassed and scared.

Her family decided to

come forward after others went public with allegations of sexual misconduct against Spacey and other celebrities, she said. □

Kintsugi: Broken pottery becomes more beautiful, precious

By LINDA LOMBARDI
Associated Press

If you search online for "kintsugi," most of what you'll find in English is self-help advice that uses this Japanese craft as a jumping-off point. The idea of repairing broken pottery in a way that makes it more beautiful than it was before is apparently an irresistible metaphor for recovering from life's trials and tribulations.

When I tried kintsugi for myself at a workshop in Tokyo recently, I couldn't help wondering how many of those writers based their simile on hands-on experience. The craft was a lot more tedious than I'd expected — but maybe that made the metaphor all the more true?

The usual goal when repairing something is to make the fix unnoticeable, restoring an object as closely as possible to its original appearance. Kintsugi takes the opposite approach: Chips and cracks are outlined and filled in with gold, creating a new design and adding a material that looks precious.

The craft is said to go back to the 15th century, and I was disappointed at first to learn from instructor Yoshihiko Kuge that we would not be using traditional materials. The reasons soon became obvious, though. Of course it makes sense that beginners wouldn't be using real gold — the usual replacement is a powder



This Nov. 11, 2018 photo shows an example of Kintsugi at the Kuge Crafts workshop in Tokyo.

Associated Press

made of copper and brass — but, in addition, the ancient method took literally months to complete.

Kuge demonstrated the old technique by mixing a little sticky plant resin with clay powder, and then dripping a drop of it onto a chip on the lip of a cup. That was it for today: Now, you'd have to wait a month for that thin layer to dry, then repeat the process until enough layers had been built up to fill the gap.

Instead, we would use an epoxy putty that dries in a few minutes — an obvious improvement as far as speed, especially for a two-hour class. It's also not as toxic as the old-fashioned

materials, which can cause allergic reactions.

The workshop had many beautiful examples on display of pottery broken into several pieces and reassembled with lines of gold, as well as some with decorative additions incorporated, like pieces of sea glass. We, however, started small, each choosing a cup that was intact except for a small chip on its rim.

We each filled in the chip with a lump of putty that extended beyond the gap in all directions. After the putty dried, the next step was filing down the lump using a metal file that's flat on one side and curved on the other — flat for the outside of the cup, curved for the inside.

The gold of a finished kintsugi piece is textured, so we students were a bit surprised as we kept showing our pieces to the instructors and being told we weren't done yet. Turns out the texture is completely due to the gold added later — we really needed to file the filler down till it was completely level with the original surfaces, a process that took quite some time. Then, when it looked like it was finally perfectly smooth, we had to make it even smoother with wet sandpaper so fine you can't feel any roughness with your fin-

gertip.

At this point, the piece would normally be left to dry overnight, but so the workshop could be finished in one afternoon, Kuge effected a little time-travel with the use of a hair dryer. Once the piece cooled off, finally we got to what we came for: the gold.

In a tiny tray, the gold powder (made of brass and copper) is mixed with a resin; this is made from cashew nuts and is apparently less toxic than the traditional kind. We dipped a fine-tipped brush into some thinner and then into the gold mixture and used it to first outline our chip, then fill it in. (This is harder on the

inside of the cup, where it's hard to get a good angle.) Next we got to indulge in a tiny bit of artistic license: When you paint the fine crack that extends from the bottom of the chip, no one's going to know if you make it a little longer than it really was. A more experienced craftsman can also add designs to flat areas; Kuge showed us examples covered with tiny dots and with traditional patterns of nested half-circles.

Finally, with a larger brush, we took more of the dry powder and dusted it onto everything we'd just painted. At first, we needed to be careful not to touch the wet surface, but once it was covered with powder, it was safe to brush off the extra. Although this didn't take the months of waiting that it did in earlier centuries, we still were not quite done: After two days we'd need to wash the extra gold powder off with soapy water and a sponge, and then wait two weeks for the piece to dry completely.

If you want to try kintsugi, you can buy Japanese-made kits with all the materials. These will cost over \$100 if you wait to go home to the U.S. and order them online, but even if you're shopping in Japan they're pricier than buying the components separately. Kuge provides students with a shopping list (with photos, for the Japanese-impaired). □



This Nov. 11, 2018 photo taken in Tokyo shows co-instructor Yoshihiko Kuge checking whether the filler material is filed down enough to proceed to the next step at the Kuge Crafts workshop in Tokyo.

Associated Press



This Nov. 11, 2018 photo shows gold-colored powder and resin being mixed before being brushed onto the repaired area at the Kuge Crafts workshop in Tokyo.

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